

UK weddings to Aruba double



Julia Renfro



Julia Renfro

PALM BEACH - The sun-kissed Dutch Caribbean island of Aruba is becoming a favorite for loved-up UK couples looking to tie the knot, with bookings for wedding packages for 2010 already at twice the number sold this year. The figures come from leading specialist operators Thomson and First Choice, and the Aruba Tourism Authority is anticipating further growth with increased accessibility from the UK next year, with Thomson Airways offering weekly services to Aruba from both London Gatwick and Manchester as of May 2010. Aruba's breathtaking sunsets,

world-class beaches and year-round warm weather make the island a picture perfect place for a destination wedding. Couples choosing to get married in Aruba usually opt to have their civil ceremony in the morning at the historic, sea-colored Civil House first, followed by a blessing on the beach or at one of Aruba's luxurious hotels and resorts later in the day. Joanna Walding, Aruba Tourism Authority UK Director, said, "Aruba is really capturing the imagination of couples looking for a romantic, sun-drenched destination for the wedding

of their dreams, with the island's powder white sand beaches and turquoise shores providing the ideal setting". She continued, "Unlike other popular destinations, most resorts and hotels in Aruba will only hold one ceremony per day so weddings have a more intimate feel - and with Aruba now becoming more accessible than ever to British travelers we are confident



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that the trend will continue". All First Choice and Thomson wedding packages include planning and administration (with a wedding representative taking care of all the arrangements); the all-important ceremony at the Civil Town House; venue decoration; marriage license, certificate and registrar fees; a bouquet for the bride and a buttonhole for the groom; wedding cake; and sparkling wine toast. First Choice offers 14 night

holidays in Aruba staying all-inclusive at the 5 Sun Occidental Grand Aruba departing from London Gatwick on the 8th May 2009. Guaranteed to take your breath away, the Occidental Grand Aruba offers luxury in every sense of the word, with a truly elegant decor, beautiful rooms and countless facilities. Special features like its beach massage service and Japanese garden restaurant make this hotel unforgettable. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Julia Renfro



Holiday Inn won the Gold, Screaming Eagle the Silver and Aqua Grill the Bronze

Aruba's 1st Chef & Student Culinary Competition 2009 was a success



ORANJESTAD - Colegio EPI Hospitality & Tourism sector together with sponsors are pleased with the results of Aruba's 1st "Aruba Chef Student Culinary Competition and Festival 2009". It all took place between October 2nd and October 4th 2009, after a couple of months of intensive training and with some very difficult hours all

12 teams were completely ready and prepared for that week-end to show off some of their best plates and culinary skills. Together with 48 students, twelve professional chefs took part of this competition together with a team of 4 consisting of the culinary school students. These 12 chefs were Sonny Partiodikromo of La Cabana,



Scott Schueurmann of Aquagrill, Gilbert Flemming from the Divi Links, Marlon Dabian of Marriott, Marco Polo Pina of the Renaissance,

Luis Vasquez of Renaissance, Edward Zievinger from Renaissance, Micheal Gomez of Renaissance, Dennis Daatselaar of

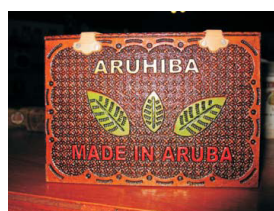
Compra N.V, Renaissance Aruba, Holiday Inn Aruba, Bucuti Beach Resort, Deli Caribbean, DJ Big Rig, ASD for the uniforms, Arion Wine



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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarijn Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



Holiday Inn Aruba, Marcel Over de Vest from Cactus Jack, Erwin Husken of the Screaming Eagle and Moises Carvajal of Daniel Steakhouse. Sponsors include: Aruba Tourism Authority, Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, Anchor,

Company, Ling & Sons, De Palm Tours, 24ora.com, ASAP Promotions, Balashi & Tropical Bottling Company, Di-Shopping, Bersah, Aruban Resort, Divi & Tamarijn Aruba, La Cabana Aruba, The Mill Resort, Manchebo Beach Resort and SETAR NV. □



BUY & RECEIVE ONE ARUBAN CIGAR FREE WITH THIS FLYER

Robert Mizrachi Leads Ultimate Bet Aruba Poker Classic Entering Day 3



By Dan Cypra

Two days of play are in the books at the 2009 Ultimate Bet Aruba Poker Classic. The \$5,500 buy-in tournament will award \$753,000 to first place, while the top four finishers will earn six-figure paydays. The final table will take place on Saturday.

A total of 86 players remain in the Ultimate Bet Aruba Poker Classic, which attracted 475 entrants this year. Last time out, the marquee island event drew 551 runners, meaning attendance dropped 14% in 2009. Nevertheless, the action was fast and furious at the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino, and Spa. After two days of play, Robert Mizrachi, brother of well-known pro Michael "The Grinder" Mizrachi, leads the pack with a chip stack of 353,200. The younger Mizrachi holds nearly a 100,000 chip lead over the second place tally of Jon Favaloro, who has 255,300.

Mizrachi made two final tables during Season V of the World Poker Tour (WPT), recording a sixth place finish at the Mirage Poker Showdown for \$129,000 and a fourth place effort at the PokerStars Caribbean Adventure for \$409,000. Mizrachi is a World Series of Poker (WSOP) bracelet holder to boot. He won the World Championship of Pot Limit Omaha during the 2007 WSOP for \$768,000, besting a final table that included Doyle Brunson, Patrik Antonius, and Marco Traniello. Mizrachi will headline Table 8 on Thursday during Day 3, where Johan

Storakers will join him.

Here's a look at the Top 10 chip stacks in the Ultimate Bet Aruba Poker Classic after Day 2:

1. Robert Mizrachi - 353,200
2. Jon Favaloro - 255,300
3. Ty Reiman - 226,900
4. Matthew Ross - 222,300
5. James Mordue - 207,700
6. James Czarnecki - 197,300
7. David Perkins - 191,500
8. Eric Baldwin - 166,400
9. Max Greenwood - 152,800
10. Ryan Caldwell - 146,900

Eric "basebaldy" Baldwin is a WSOP bracelet winner, having taken down the accolade this year by virtue of winning a \$1,500 buy-in No Limit Hold'em event for \$521,000. He nearly won a second bracelet in the World Championship of Pot Limit Hold'em, but ultimately grabbed third in that tournament for \$259,000. Baldwin won the \$750,000 Guaranteed, the flagship weekly tournament on Full Tilt Poker, for \$132,000 in December. In May of 2008, he won the Bodog \$100,000 Guaranteed twice in the same

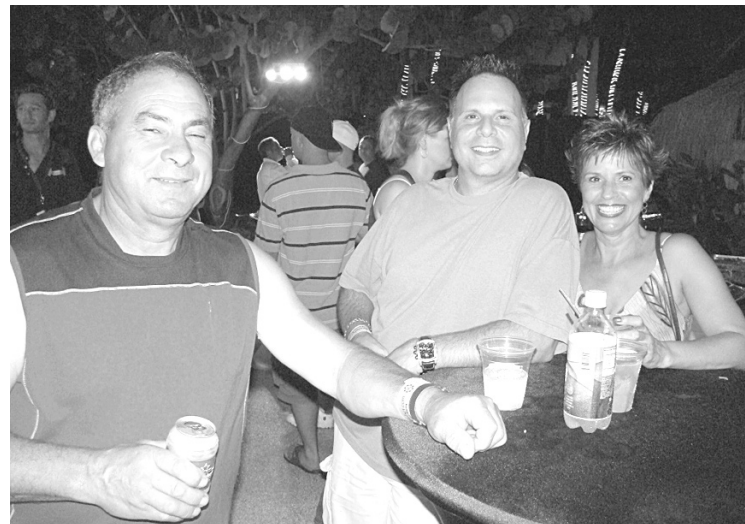


month.

Travis "TravestyFund" Rice, who won the Aruba Poker Classic in 2007, remains in contention this year. Rice outlasted a field of 548 players for his Aruba title and earned \$800,000. Rice holds the 12th largest stack entering play on Thursday at 128,600. Reigning Aruba Poker Classic champion Matt Brady also remains in the hunt for the \$753,000 first place prize. Brady sits at 67th on the leaderboard entering Day 3 with a stack of 34,500. He'll have his work cut out for him, however, as just 86 players remain.

Other notable pros who survived two days of play include:

17. Matt Vengrin - 116,700
33. David Sands - 82,400
53. Johan Storakers - 50,600



59. Gavin Smith - 45,700

64. Scott Ian - 40,300

78. Tim West - 29,400

81. Shawn Rice - 23,500

85. Hunter Frey - 18,500

The action kicked off today at Noon ET with blinds of 800/1,600 with a 200 chip ante and will likely conclude when 36 players remain. Then, the

field will play six-handed down to a winner. Here are the paydays that are up for grabs at the final table:

1st Place - \$753,330

2nd Place - \$414,680

3rd Place - \$218,860

4th Place - \$126,710

5th Place - \$92,150

6th Place - \$66,810

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EAGLE BEACH -- As some guests for breakfast, lunch and dinner Professional Pest Control was called in for advice and help.



According to Managing Director Anthony Geerman birds are becoming accustomed to the presence of humans and know exactly where to get access to easy meals and at which time service begins. Because Professional Pest Control provides pest management to the majority of the hotels on Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire, it sought alliance with US experts on the issue importing an adviser in bird control for a seminar. BirdBarrier, America's leading manufacturer and supplier of humane bird control solutions and products, was selected for the exclusive partnership. Professional Pest Control proudly presented Cameron Riddell, president of Bird Barrier, to the management of all the Aruban hotels, members of the government, Airport management and many others in a well attended seminar. Cameron Riddell gave a magnificent presentation at La



Cabana's conference room on all the latest developments in bird control and showed Aruba what can be done to control the challenge in a humane way. Riddell also met with the staff

at Professional Pest Control and enjoyed a complete day of training with them. We serve the community, reiterates Geerman and we serve our bird population, keeping both their special



Massive drug hauls at Amsterdam Airport



THE HAGUE - Customs officers at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport said on Thursday they have discovered fifteen kilograms of heroin in carpets from Pakistan. The drug had been hidden in the seams of the carpets.

In another find, a package whose waybill declared it to

contain ceramics was actually filled with 1300 kilograms of cannabis from Thailand. No-one was arrested after the finds.

Cassave rolls
The airport set up a special task force to find drugs, called the CargoHarc team. It consists of Military Police detectives,

border police and Tax Office inspectors. They are closely monitoring the freight passing through Schiphol Airport. The team is also responsible for thoroughly checking every individual passenger flying in from Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles, which used to be major sources of drugs smuggled into the Netherlands.

One of these so-called 100-percent controls revealed how a Surinamese man and a Dutch woman were using bread to smuggle cocaine

into the country. A suspicious number of rolls were found in their luggage. The 33 rolls, of a kind often filled with mashed cassave root, turned out to be generously filled with ground cocaine. The couple were arrested when it turned out they were transporting 3 kilos of the drug in their food.

Coconuts
Airport personnel are increasingly finding drugs hidden in inventive places, such as clothes, beverages, food and audio equipment.

The airport's drugs finding team reported earlier this week they had discovered cocaine in a load of coconuts from the Dominican Republic. Rubber balloons had been inserted into the coconuts, which had subsequently been injected with liquid cocaine.

Personal use
The trafficking of heroin, cocaine or cannabis is illegal in the Netherlands. Possession of minimal quantities of the drugs for personal use is generally tolerated. □



post aruba
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ANNOUNCEMENT

Post Aruba N.V. would like to inform all its clients that due to the World Post Day on the 9 of October all their offices will closed. However on October 12 all our offices will open normally.

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*** Human Hints Daily ***

Surrender Your Ego to Find Love

Love can be thought of as a complete surrender to Unification.

Love is the surrender of our ego toward complete Unification.

Since our ego creates the illusion of separation, complete Unification requires its complete and total surrender. When ego completely surrenders, the illusion of separation disappears, and we realize that we are one with all things. We all share the same fundamental frequency.

The fourth dimension of Love is ever present, hidden behind Ego's veil. As we part the curtains, we see Unification as the natural progression. In death, the Ego dies with

the body, so there is a natural transition into Love and Unity. This is how we've shed the ego in the past, but Humans are evolving. We are transforming from three dimensional creatures, into creatures who express themselves in the fourth dimension of Love and Unity.

When we act from Love, the ego will automatically dissolve, leaving only Unity. When this happens, we will become aware of living in fourth dimensional Unity while still in a three dimensional body. In the fourth dimension, the body can survive without the ego.

Knowing we are one with everything gives us the power

of infinite creation. Acting from Unity, we will have complete control over the hologram of separation.

This is the process that Humanity is going through. This is what it means to shift from the third dimension to the fourth. It is not mass death of the physical body, it is surrendering the ego while we're still in a physical body.

This is why it is important to begin to recognize your ego when it acts on you. When you realize when you're being influenced by the energies of separation, you will be able to disarm ego's blind reactions, and replace them with the energy of Unity.

This is happening now because Universal Energies are aligning at this time. This will culminate and build until the grand moment when the Universal Frequencies reach exact alignment, and the Mass Consciousness of Humanity realizes that it is one with everything, and surrenders its ego.

With all the mystery surrounding 2012, this begs the question of what will happen in that grand moment when everything comes together in the most rare, unique and meaningful set of synchronicities Humanity has ever experienced? The answer is a resounding, ...probably nothing of significance.

After that moment, people will transform into Unity very quickly and effortlessly, as ego falls from the Mass Consciousness. We will all very quickly come to realize that we are all one, and to hurt another is to hurt ourselves.

The new Universal Overtones will support our transformation, which will instantly feel completely natural, as if we have been there all along. We will remember our three dimensional past, and we will be amazed by

what once drove us and the way we once acted. We will be infinitely compassionate and understanding toward our past, while we revel in our new unlimited expression.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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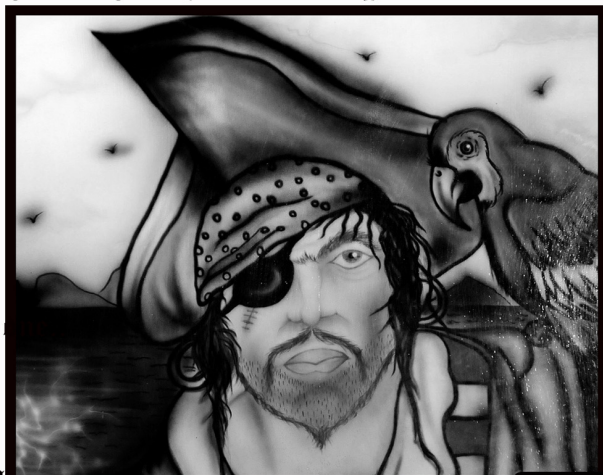
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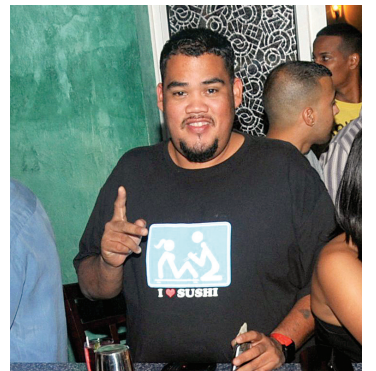
At Chino Latino in The Village on Palm Beach

Great Kickoff party for Aruba Music Festival



PALM BEACH – On Wednesday night, islanders and tourists joined together in celebration of the Aruba Music Festival 2009 that will be held this evening with Paulina Rubio and Fonseca, and then again tomorrow night with the legendary American group Earth, Wind and Fire. Everyone had the time of their lives in the popular eatery / night club with the great sounds of C-Zar Olarte and the Untouchables. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Paulina Rubio and Fons

Aruba is excited to have Fonseca and Paulina

PAULINA RUBIO:

Paulina Rubio is one of the top-selling female Latin pop artists with over 20 million records sold worldwide. Paulina, dubbed “La Chica Dorada” (The Golden Girl), is preparing to take the globe by storm yet again with the release of her ninth album, *Gran City Pop*, due out on June 23rd.

Raised in Mexico, Los Angeles, and Spain, she began her wildly successful career at the young age of 10 with the Mexican girl group “Timbiriche,” and thereafter decided to go her own way. Paulina’s eponymous solo album shifted over 3 million records worldwide

and garnered her a Grammy nomination for Best Latin Artist in addition to three Latin Grammy nominations, as well as a Billboard award for Best Latin Album and two Premio Lo Nuestro awards for Best Pop Album and Best Female Pop Star. With this record, Paulina’s remarkable sales yielded: Triple Platinum and Diamond sales in Columbia, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Spain, and Italy. Her album *Pau-Latina* further cemented her place as she became the highest selling female Latin artist of 2004. That year, Paulina won several Billboard, Premios Juventud and Premio Lo Nuestro awards and was the



FONSECA:

Fonseca’s EMI Latin United States debut *Corazon* is amongst the most impressive releases in recent Latin music, instantly garnering three Latin Grammy nominations, four Latin Billboard Nominations, two MTV Latin America Music Award nominations and four Premio Lo Nuestro nominations (at which he also performed).

From these nominations, Fonseca took home a Latin Grammy for Best Tropical Song of the Year, a Latin Billboard Award for Tropical Album of the Year, a MTV Music Award for Best New Central Artist, and a Premio Lo Nuestro for Best New Artist.



In 2008, Fonseca was nominated for two Premio Lo Nuestro Awards for Tropical Mail Artist of the Year and Tropical Traditional Artist of the Year. He released his highly-anticipated sophomore album *Gratitud* and first hit single “Enredame” which was #1 in Columbia for nine consecutive weeks.

Most recently, his second single “Arroyito” was released and within two weeks hit the #1 spot in Columbia.

By staying true to his native Colombian rhythms and fusing pop/rock, Fonseca manages to straddle and dominate both the



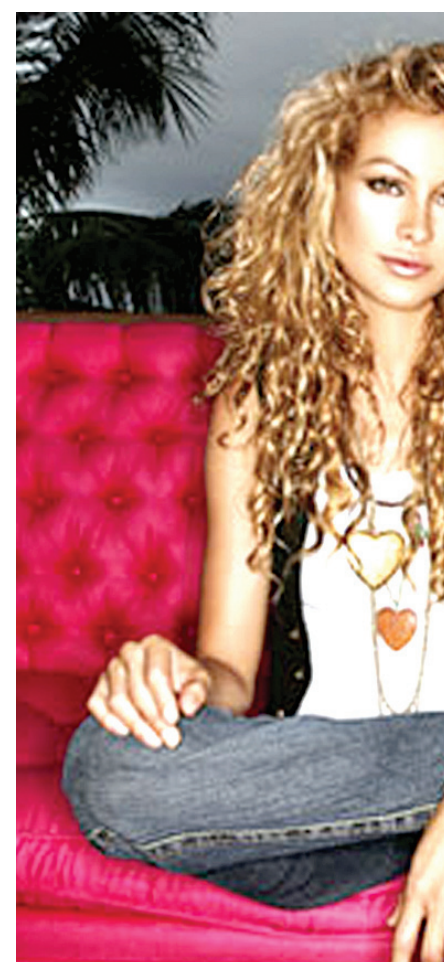
Pop and Tropical charts, uniquely positioning him as both a Pop and Tropical star.

Fonseca’s album and mega hit *Te Mando Flores* reached top 10 spots on the Latin Album, Pop, Tropical, and Hot Latin Tracks charts. Over a year past its release, *Te Mando Flores* is still on significant rotation at radio stations.

His follow-up hit single “Hance Tiempo” also slated both the Latin Pop and Tropical Airplay charts. Fonseca has additionally shared the stage with fellow Colombian luminaries Juanes at Campin Stadium in Bogota and Shakira in her home town of Baranquilla. □



only Latina nominated at the 47th Grammy Awards. The year after, Paulina became the first female host at the MTV Latin America Video Awards and was also invited to perform at the Nobel Award



Festival 2009

Fonseca to perform tonight

Paulina Rubio join the Aruba Music Festival.



also found a home on the charts and won a Latin Billboard Award. The eagerly anticipated Gran City Pop already hit #1 as a pre-sale on iTunes Latino and consists of 10 tracks. Her latest single, "Causa y Efecto," debuted on

television at the 2009 Billboard Latin Music Awards and was a radio hit upon its release, quickly climbing the charts. In parallel, Paulina is launching "ORO," her first fragrance, in collaboration with Oracle Beauty Brands. □



Ceremony in 2006.

Paulina then released the most successful album-to-date of her career, Ananda, which entered the Billboard 200 chart at #31. The single "Ni Una Sola Palabra"



ARUBA

2009

MUSIC FESTIVAL



Paulina Rubio

OCTOBER 9



Fonseca

OCTOBER 10



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OCTOBER 10

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October 9 - 8:00 PM (Doors Open at 6:00 PM)

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Site International Foundation Carries Forward the Legacy of David Riddell



The Site International Foundation is proud to announce the 2009 recipient of the David



Riddell Memorial Scholarship is Vicki Kern of JNR Incorporated. As the recipient, Ms. Kern will attend Site International Conference 2009 in Aruba 30 October–2 November for education and networking programs while learning what the destination has to offer the motivational experience and travel industry.

Ms. Kern earned the award through an essay highlighting how the industry is reinventing itself and emphasizing the value of face to face experiences. She also expanded on the positive impact her membership in Site has had on her professional development and business relationships. The scholarship was

created to honor the late David Riddell of Marriott Corporation, a past president of Site and one of Site's most ardent supporters. The scholarship is intended to provide an opportunity for a worthy individual to participate in Site educational programs, in honor of Mr. Riddell's commitment to education.



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Bugaloe is located at De Palm Pier in Palm Beach between RIU Palace and Radisson Resort.

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Friday 6-10pm: PM Band

Friday 10pm - 12am - DJ Jeroen

Sunday 6-9pm: MARISELA & Aquarius

Two new ambulances added to fleet, four now in operation

PHILIPSBURG--The Ambulance Department has received a major boost of two new ambulances worth over US \$140,000, which is expected to significantly enhance its response.

This brings to four the total number of ambulances currently in operation. One of the ambulances arrived a few weeks ago. The second, which arrived this week, was turned over to the department by Health Commissioner Hyacinth Richardson on Wednesday.

Both vehicles will be readied for the road in another two weeks after being undercoated, insured and equipped with the necessary medical supplies.

Ambulance Department Head Cylred Richardson said the commissioner had been instrumental in acquiring the two ambulances, which had been budgeted and financed by the Island Government. The commissioner was the first to take the wheel of the new ambulance in the presence of ambulance personnel at the Captain David Cargo Quay on Wednesday.

Cylred Richardson said the department was also expected to receive two new ambulances in 2010.

The department is also hoping to receive two "mass casualty trailers," which are equipped with "all the necessary medical equipment" on board, including basic and advanced life support systems, and are more appropriate when responding to large-scale disasters. Each trailer costs about US \$15,000. Cylred Richardson said an advice has been submitted to the Executive Council for the acquisition of the two trailers.

The commissioner said he was happy with the addition of the new ambulances, which were expected to help the department deliver "better service," and that this was an important development for St. Maarten, especially given reports he had received before taking office that the ambulance would sometimes "cut off" when going downhill. In addition to the four ambulances in operation, two older model ambulances are down and the department head said it had to be determined whether it would be worth investing in making them road-worthy again. □

Still no movement at Aquarius project

~ Developer gives new date for delivery ~

PHILIPSBURG--There is still no movement at the Aquarius project located at Gibbs Bay adjacent to Guana Bay. Almost a year after the developer, Aquarius Ltd., was supposed to deliver the units to purchasers, no work is being carried out at the abandoned, unfinished buildings. The project was approved by the Island Government some three years ago.

Legal representative for the purchasers Michiel Noordhoek of HBN Law said he recently received written correspondence from the owners of the project, Sabra N.V., indicating that the units will be completed and delivered sometime between the dates of August and November 2010.

However, considering how long his clients have been waiting, after committing millions of dollars in the project, Noordhoek said legal action will commence soon in an attempt to force Sabra N.V. to reimburse his

clients monies.

The lack of progress at the project prompted purchasers to dissolve the sales and purchase agreement and demand reimbursement of their funds, a claim that has been flatly rejected by Sabra N.V.

Sabra N.V. claims that it can indefinitely extend the date for delivery of the units. The purchasers, on the contrary, are pointing to the fact that the signed agreement clearly indicates a delivery date of November 2008.

"Just like everyone else on St. Maarten, my clients can see that there is nothing happening at Aquarius. Developers cannot simply accept payment, build a few walls and decide to walk away," Noordhoek said.

One of the purchasers that Noordhoek represents actually won a court case against Sabra N.V. on June 23 this year. Although significant, Noordhoek said that case does not necessarily set a precedent

for any future case against Sabra N.V.

He said the ruling in that case was not a judgement based on content considering the other party, Sabra N.V., did not show up in court. Noordhoek said it was more of a technicality due to the absence of the opposing party.

Because the content of the case could not be argued, Noordhoek said, the judgement is no clear indication that Sabra N.V. was in default of the sales and purchase agreement or if all purchasers are entitled to reimbursement of funds. However, he is confident that his clients have a strong case.

The Aquarius project was hyped as a "spectacular opportunity" offering "magnificent fully furnished beach front residences." For the 30 residences, the developer promoted its 5.9 per cent mortgages over a 20-year term starting from US \$749,000 with a soft down payment schedule.

OCaN to talk to MPs about Antillean policy

THE HAGUE--The Antillean umbrella organisation in the Netherlands OCaN announced on Tuesday that it will hold talks with individual members of the Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament to discuss the proposed Antillean high-risk youngsters policy.

The Antillean high-risk youngsters policy was adopted by the Dutch cabinet last Friday. Minister of Housing, Employment and Integration Eberhard van der Laan sent a letter to the Second Chamber that same day in which he detailed the policy aimed at tackling the over-representation of Antillean high-risk youngsters in crime, employment and school drop-out figures in the next four years.

The Second Chamber has to approve the policy which has a yearly price tag of nine million euros, 4.5 million from government and 4.5 million euros from the 22 Antillean municipalities. OCaN Chairman Glenn Helberg stated in an earlier reaction on Monday that he hoped the Second Chamber would not play politics with this issue which is of utmost importance to the Antillean community in the Netherlands.

In a press release issued on Tuesday, Helberg said OCaN's stake was four-fold: housing and guidance for Antilleans with little education, newcomers, underprivileged persons and youngsters; guidance for vulnerable families; a community that is truly involved; and an equal (legal) position for all Antilleans and Arubans

in the Netherlands.

According to Helberg the lack of shelter and housing for young, poorly educated and deprived newcomers from the Netherlands Antilles remains an Achilles Heel in the proposed cabinet's policy.

A stable place of residence in the first years defines whether these people make it or not. OCaN wants shelter or housing facilities in all so-called "Antillean municipalities" in return for obligatory educational or employment trajectories.

Helberg also addressed the draft Kingdom law on the movement of people which was mentioned in one of the supplements that was attached to the letter of Minister Van der Laan. The Minister, on behalf of Justice Minister Ernst Hirsch Ballin, informed Parliament that the trajectory of this law is currently moving ahead, with the implementation date tentatively set for 2010.

Helberg focused on the fact that the law proposal mentioned the possibility of declaring a person "undesirable" by denying that person access to a country in the Kingdom for reasons of public order or safety in case this person's behaviour poses a severe threat to society of the country in question.

"It is unthinkable that a possible implementation of the law has consequences for the cooperation between the Dutch Government, municipalities and the Antillean community," said Helberg. □

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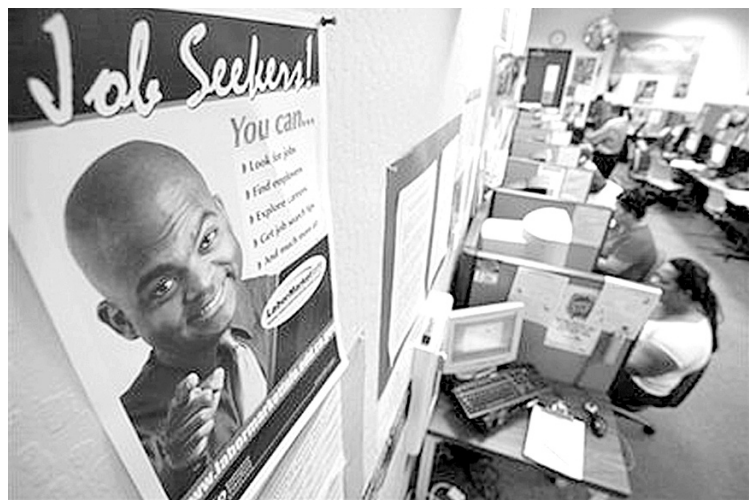
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New jobless claims fall to 521K, lowest since Jan.



In this Oct. 2, 2009 photo, people search for employment opportunities on computers at JobTrain job training facility in Menlo Park, Calif. The number of new claims for jobless benefits falls to the lowest level since early January, as employers cut fewer workers.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

By **CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER**,
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON — The number of newly laid-off

workers filing first-time claims for jobless benefits fell to the lowest level since early January, as layoffs eased a bit amid a fledgling economic

recovery.

The fourth drop in new claims in five weeks is a sign the labor market is slowly healing. But employers are reluctant to hire new workers and the unemployment rate is expected to keep climbing well into next year.

Separately, the nation's retailers saw modest signs of life from consumers in September, resulting in the first sales gain since July 2008 and fueling some hope for the holiday shopping season.

The Labor Department said Thursday that new claims for unemployment insurance dropped last week to a seasonally adjusted 521,000, better than analysts expected and down from 554,000 the previous week.

The four-week average, which

smooths fluctuations, fell to 539,750, the lowest since Jan. 17. The number of people continuing to claim benefits declined by 72,000 to 6.04 million. Analysts expected continuing claims to rise slightly.

"The downtrend in claims is encouraging and points to continued, albeit gradual, improvement in the labor market," Joseph LaVorgna, chief U.S. economist at Deutsche Bank, wrote in a note to clients.

Economists closely watch initial claims, which are considered a gauge of layoffs and an indication of companies' willingness to hire new workers.

Despite the improvement, initial claims remain well above the 325,000 that economists say is consistent with a healthy economy.

Meanwhile, a late Labor Day and delayed school openings helped boost back-to-school sales in September. The International Council of Shopping Centers-Goldman Sachs preliminary tally registered an increase of 0.1 percent for September, compared with a 1 percent drop a year ago. While still tepid, the results mark the first gain since July 2008, when the index rose 1.3 percent.

As stores announced their results Thursday, J.C. Penney Co., Macy's Inc., and Target Corp. all reported smaller-than-expected declines in sales at stores open at least a year.

Limited Brands Inc., which runs Victoria's Secret and Bath & Body Works, and accessories chain The Buckle Inc. both posted increases for the month.

Still, industry worries remain high heading into the holiday shopping season because shoppers, many of whom were afraid to spend a year ago, are now grappling with rising job losses, reduced hours or unavailable credit.

The stock market rose in afternoon trading. The Dow Jones industrial average added about 93 points, and broader indexes also gained.

In a third report, the Commerce Department said businesses reduced inventories at the wholesale level for a record 12th straight month in August. In an encouraging sign, sales jumped by the largest amount in 14 months.

Economists hope the rising sales will persuade businesses to begin restocking their depleted shelves, a switch that would boost factory production and help bolster broad economic growth in coming months.

The jobless claims figures indicate that layoffs are slowing. Employers eliminated a net total of 263,000 jobs in September, the Labor Department said last week. Many economists expect that number to decline this month. When federal emergency programs are included, the total number of jobless benefit recipients dropped by about 90,000 to 8.9 million in the week that ended Sept. 19, the latest data available. Congress has added up to 53 extra weeks of benefits on top of the 26 typically provided by the states, and is considering adding another 13 weeks.

Many analysts expect the economy grew as much as 3 percent in the July-September quarter, but most employers are likely to hold back on new hires while they wait to see if such growth can be maintained.

The unemployment rate rose to 9.8 percent in September from 9.7 percent, the department said last week, the highest in 26 years. The recession, the worst since the 1930s, has eliminated a net total of 7.2 million jobs.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said last week that even if the economy maintained a 3 percent growth rate for several quarters, unemployment would still be above 9 percent by the end of 2010.

More job cuts were announced this week. Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., which makes industrial and scientific equipment, said it will close a plant in Dubuque, Iowa, next year, costing 350 jobs. □

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Stocks climb after retail sales, better jobs data

By **STEPHEN BERNARD**
and **SARA LEPRO**,

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Stocks are resuming their climb as investors get positive readings on two of the best gauges of the economy's health: consumer spending and corporate profits.

Major stock indexes rose about 1 percent in afternoon trading Thursday, picking up where the market's rally left off earlier this week. The Dow Jones industrials put in their best back-to-back advance since July on Monday and Tuesday, rising 244 points, after two losing weeks.

Stocks lost some ground in afternoon trading after demand at a government auction of 30-year bonds fell short of expectations.

In a sign that consumer spending may finally be starting to recover, retailers last month saw their first sales

gains in more than a year. A closely watched gauge of sales at major retailers showed an increase of 0.1 percent for September, compared with a 1.0 percent drop a year ago. While still tepid, it was the first monthly gain in the International Council of Shopping Centers-Goldman Sachs tally since July 2008, when the index was up 1.3 percent.

The upbeat mood on Wall Street was initially set after the close of trading Wednesday when Alcoa Inc. surprised investors with its first profit in nine months, which the aluminum company attributed to cost-cutting and rising sales to automakers. Alcoa also said it expects worldwide aluminum demand to increase 11 percent in the second half of the year.

One of the first major companies to report earnings, Alcoa's better-than-expected

report and upbeat demand prediction reassured investors of a positive earnings season. "Alcoa set the tone and backed it up," Michael Feser, president of Zecco Trading said.

A better reading on the labor market also raised investors' optimism. The Labor Department reported that new claims for jobless benefits fell to 521,000 last week, down from 554,000 the previous week and better than analysts had expected. It was the lowest level since early January. Continuing claims fell to 6.04 million, better than the slight increase analysts had expected.

The Dow rose 78.14, or 0.8 percent, to 9,803.72. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 9.53, or 0.9 percent, to 1,067.11, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 20.09, or 1 percent, to 2,130.42.

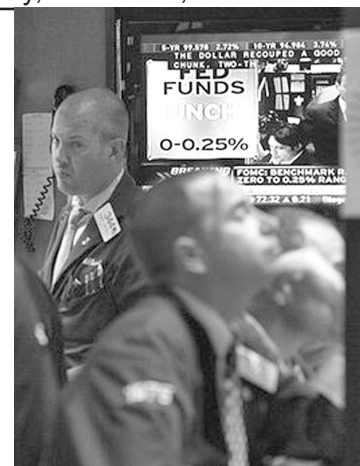
Three stocks rose for every one that fell on the New

York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 691.2 million shares, compared with 600 million at the same time a day earlier.

Bond prices fell after lackluster demand at an auction of 30-year bonds. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.24 percent from 3.19 percent late Wednesday.

The week's advance has put the market's seven-month rally back on track, sending the major indexes toward their best weekly gain since early July after back-to-back weeks of losses. Investors had become discouraged in recent weeks by a stream of disappointing economic data, as improvements in areas like manufacturing slowed.

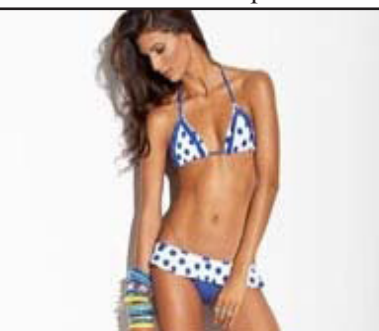
But this week, the market got a boost of confidence from signs of growth in the service sector and a positive analyst report on banks. An interest rate hike in Australia, meanwhile, was



In this Aug. 12, 2009 file photo, a television screen in a booth on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the Fed interest rate decision. Over the last 30 years, the value of financial assets — things like stocks, bonds and bank deposits — grew to be four times larger than annual global gross domestic product.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, file)

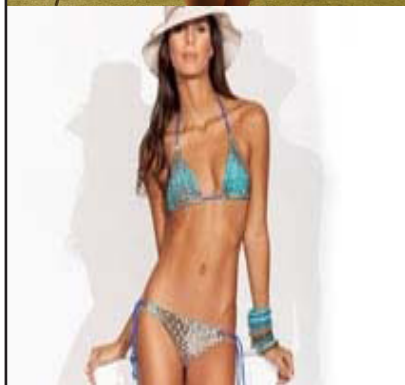
seen as a vote of confidence in the global economy. "The way we will perform is two steps forward, one step back," said Michael Strauss, chief economist at Commonfund in Wilton, Conn. □



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Calif. citrus farmers fear tree-killing disease



FILE - This image provided by the USDA Agricultural Research Service shows adult Asian citrus psyllid bugs on a plant. Central California citrus growers are getting ready to fight for their livelihoods, after a pest, the fruit-fly-sized Asian citrus psyllid, that can carry a disease fatal to lemon and orange trees was spotted closer than ever before to their crops.

(AP Photo/USDA Agricultural Research Service, David Hall)

By JACOB ADELMAN,
Associated Press Writer

ORANGE COVE, Calif. — Tom Mulholland is girding for battle against a tiny enemy that could devastate the orange grove he has spent his life cultivating. His adversary: the Asian citrus psyllid, a fruit-fly-sized insect with red eyes and a long, leaf-penetrating beak.

The psyllid, which can carry an incurable disease fatal to citrus trees, was spotted in August in Los Angeles, closer than ever before to the ribbon of central California where the state's \$1.6 billion citrus-growing industry is concentrated.

The feared infestation has prompted Mulholland and other citrus-belt farmers to put screens around their young seedlings, vigorously inspect their mature trees and tax themselves to fund research to stop the psyllid.

"It's like a war," Mulholland said in his tidy office set amid some 400 acres of radiantly healthy Clementine and Satsuma trees on his farm some 200 miles north of Los Angeles in the San Joaquin Valley at the base of the foothills beneath Sequoia National Park. "We're sitting here trying to stop this thing, and it wants to keep pushing in." California growers and agricultural officials are worried the state's citrus industry will be crippled by the disease carried by the psyllid, which devastated Florida's crops. The two states produced about 97 percent of the nation's 12 million tons of citrus during the fiscal year ending in June.

The huanglongbing disease, which spoils the flavor of the fruit and ultimately kills the tree, has been found in all of Florida's 32 citrus-producing counties since its discovery there in 2005, causing about \$100 million in damages, said Andrew Meadows, a spokesman for Florida Citrus

Mutual, the state's grower trade association.

Florida officials have warned that their \$9 billion citrus industry could be wiped out in a decade if a solution isn't found to the disease, also known as citrus greening because of the sickly green cast it lends to infected fruit.

"That's why California is so alarmed," said David Hall, an entomologist with the USDA's agricultural research service in Florida who worked on a team that sequenced the genome of the bacteria that causes citrus greening.

Huanglongbing has been found in Louisiana, Mexico, Brazil and China as well.

In California, the insect has so far been found among planted citrus trees in four southern counties, prompting quarantines that prohibit nurseries from shipping seedlings to other areas. Fruit grown in those counties also must be washed before it can be sold outside the quarantine zone.

Dogs trained to sniff out the pest found packages of curry leaves with psyllids in FedEx packages this summer in Fresno and Sacramento. Only the Fresno psyllids tested positive for huanglongbing.

The psyllid is not the only pest that could threaten California citrus. The state is also home to the glassy-winged sharpshooter, a threat to grapes but also capable of carrying a debilitating disease called citrus variegated chlorosis that has been spotted in Brazil.

California agriculture officials have also been locked in a decades-long struggle with the crop-eating Mediterranean fruit fly, which can harm citrus plants and hundreds of other fruits and vegetables.

But the potential devastation that could accompany a psyllid infestation is especially

troubling for Mulholland and other citrus farmers, who have started building screens around the currently open-air nurseries where vulnerable seedlings are cultivated in rows of inverted plastic cones.

Allan Lombardi, who helps oversee 2,100 acres of pink-fleshed Cara Cara oranges, deep-red Fukumoto oranges and other high-value citrus as a manager with Central Valley grower Griffith Farms, said his company is scrambling to enclose its nurseries before the pest reaches the area, but that it's about two years from completion.

"If the disease shows up sooner than that, we'll have to have a Plan B, and I'm not sure what that will be," said Lombardi as he looked down a mountain slope and into a lush valley planted thickly with rows of oranges.

Citrus farmers have also started instructing workers to watch for signs of psyllid infestation, such as wilted-looking leaves or leaves covered in soot-like mold and white waxy deposits. California's Citrus Research Board, which raises its \$5.5 million operating budget by assessing citrus growers a nickel for every 55-pound box of fruit they sell, plans to contribute to the field checks with a team of up to 25 inspectors, operations chief MaryLou Polek said.

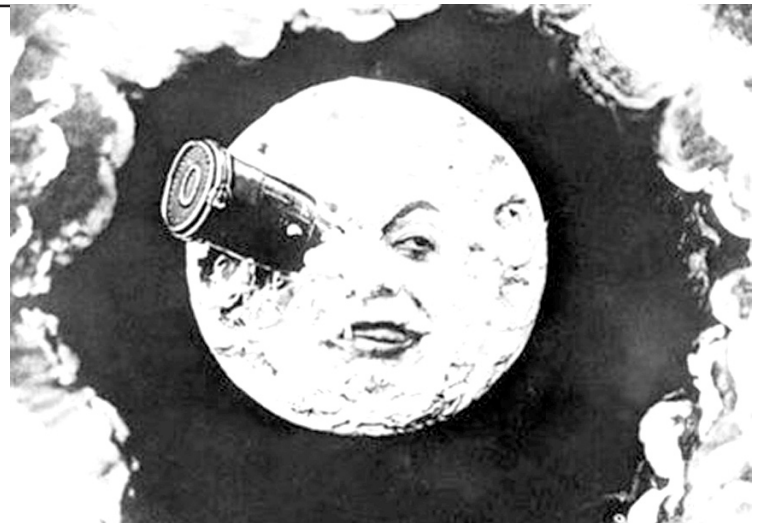
She said she hopes to poach trained inspectors from the state agriculture department whose hours or pay have been reduced due to budget cuts.

The board has also embarked on an effort to lay traps for the insect throughout the state that will be monitored by researchers carrying camera-equipped handheld devices that record the map coordinates where insects are found and take pictures of the damage.

That information, along with other data, will be beamed to a database so researchers can better track the insect's movement and deploy insecticides and other resources where they'll be most effective, she said.

Mulholland said he doesn't expect a cure to the disease any time soon, so those efforts to keep the disease-carrying insect from moving any farther north represent growers' best hope against the illness.

"It's like the AIDS of citrus. It's the very worst disease you can have," he said. "The question is, how do we keep the disease from spreading?" □



This still image from the 1902 silent film 'Le Voyage Dans La Lune', written and directed by Georges M

(AP Photo)

Moonstruck: Making one giant thud for mankind

By SETH BORENSTEIN
and ALICIA CHANG,

AP Science Writers

WASHINGTON — For as long as man has looked up, the moon has inspired romance, poetry and songs. Man also likes blowing things up. Now we get to do both — in the name of science.

The aim of Friday's deliberate crash of two unmanned NASA spacecraft into the moon is to see if they can kick up some ice. It is the 20th lunar crash, most of them done on purpose, since the Russians first did it 50 years ago last month.

And that doesn't count the eight times we tried and somehow missed the moon or couldn't get off the ground.

For more than a century, the idea of Earthlings taking a swipe at the moon has permeated popular culture. The most enduring image is from the 1902 classic movie, "A Trip to the Moon," in which a bullet-like rocket wincingly lodges in the eye of the man in the moon.

As much as we like to gaze at the moon, we like stirring things up even more. It's the specialty of the hit show "Mythbusters" and the aptly named show "Destroyed in Seconds."

Friday's first smack: a 2.2-ton empty rocket stage crashing into the moon at twice the speed of a bullet, equal to the power of 1.5 tons of TNT, followed four minutes later with a smaller hit.

For those fearing that the crashes like Friday's could cause the moon to shift its orbit or send huge chunks back to Earth, agency scientists have some words of comfort.

They say such crashes have no more effect on the moon than an eyelash dropping on a jet. Sure the impact may seem big, but so is the moon.

This also is something that happens four times a month to the moon, said Dan Andrews, the head of this NASA lunar crash mission. The only difference is that those hits are from naturally occurring space rocks.

No one personifies the blow-'em-up-in-the-name-of-science more than Brown University geologist Peter Schultz, a scientist who worked on NASA's similar purposeful crash into a comet in 2005. He's a regular cosmic crasher in the name of science — and jollies.

"Whenever these things happen, the first thing that comes out of your mouth is 'Geez,'" Schultz said. "I've got the neatest job in the world."

It's human nature to blow things up and dissect what happens, Schultz said Thursday from the Vertical Gun Range at NASA's Ames Research Center.

"There's a reason you drop pumpkins off a 30-story building," he told The Associated Press.

He won't say whether he's done that — but he has shot eggs out of jet engines into the ground to see what happens to the shells. And then there's this don't-do-this-at-home moment from his boyhood: He put a firecracker into an ant mound and took pictures of the flying ants during the explosion.

Schultz later got a telescope and fell in love with the moon and its craters. He planned to look at the crash with spacecraft cameras capable of 1 million frames per second — getting millisecond-by-millisecond details of the violence. □

AP Poll: Third of parents oppose swine flu vaccine

By MIKE STOBBE

AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA — As the first wave of swine flu vaccine crosses the country, more than a third of parents don't want their kids vaccinated, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll.

Some parents say they are concerned about side effects from the new vaccine — even though nothing serious has turned up in tests so far — while others say swine flu doesn't amount to any greater health threat than seasonal flu.

Jackie Shea of Newtown, Conn., the mother of a 5-year-old boy named Emmett, says the vaccine is too new and too untested.

"I will not be first in line in October to get him vaccinated," she said in an interview last month. "We're talking about putting an unknown into him. I can't do that."

The AP poll found that 38 percent of parents said they were unlikely to give permission for their kids to be vaccinated at school.

The belief that the new vaccine could be risky is one federal health officials have been fighting from the start, and they plan an unprecedented system of monitoring for side effects.

They note that swine flu vaccine is made the same way as seasonal flu vaccines that have been used for years. And no scary side effects have turned up in tests on volunteers, including children.

On Wednesday, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius appealed for widespread inoculation against swine flu, vouching unconditionally for the vaccine: "We know it's safe and secure."

The AP poll, conducted Oct. 1-5, found 72 percent of those surveyed are worried about side effects, although more than half say that wouldn't stop them from getting the vaccine to protect their kids from the new flu.

Giving flu shot to school children is also an idea many parents are still getting used to. It was only last year that the government recommendation kicked in for virtually all children to get it. Seasonal flu vaccination rates for children last year ranged from about 48 percent for toddlers to about 9 percent for

teens.

It traditionally takes a while for parents to learn about and accept a new vaccine and years for immunization rates to grow, said Dr. Matthew Davis, a University of Michigan Medical School associate professor who has overseen polling on flu issues.

Special swine flu vaccination clinics at schools are being planned in many states. Children are the main spreaders of infectious disease, and if large numbers are coming down with swine flu, there are ripple effects for everyone else.

The AP poll found 59 percent are likely to let their kids be vaccinated at school. But the kind of concerns voiced by parents could put a dent in public health efforts.

A survey Davis directed for C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Michigan suggested one reason for rejecting the vaccine is that about half of parents said they did not consider swine flu any worse than the seasonal bug.

"Basically, the swine flu is the flu. I'm not overly excited about it," said Julie Uehlein, a Tullahoma, Tenn., mother who is against swine flu vaccinations for her 8-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter.

"My concerns about the vaccine are what are the long-term effects," she added.

Some, like Shea, recall the 1976 swine flu immunization campaign that vaccinated 40 million Americans against an epidemic that never materialized. Worse, many who got the shots back then filed injury claims blaming health problems on the vaccine, with some reporting a paralyzing condition called Guillain-Barre syndrome.

Health officials did not find evidence the vaccine caused the condition, noting it occurs naturally anyway and would be bound to show up in such a large group. Many people were unjustifiably blaming all sorts of health problems on the vaccine, some health experts believe.

That's why the government is already trying to educate people about how common many health problems are, and why it's handing out cards telling people how to report any side effects.

For some parents, fears are compounded by worries about

thimerosal, a mercury-based preservative that will be in roughly 60 percent of the 225 million swine flu doses ordered for Americans.

The preservative is not in the FluMist nasal spray, which can be given to healthy kids age 2 and older. But it's in many injectable doses, which are packaged in multi-dose vials that require thimerosal to prevent bacterial contamination.

Fears that the preservative or something in vaccines themselves can lead to autism remain entrenched in some quarters — despite no evidence from the most rigorous scientific studies.

Some autism advocacy groups echo parents' concerns about swine flu vaccine, and also argue it's a bad idea to spend so much time and money on the new flu.

"We're flipping out over swine flu, but it's only affected a few thousand people. Why isn't somebody freaking out about the autism epidemic?" said Wendy Fournier, president of the National Autism Association.

Vaccine makers are sensitive to demand for preservative-free shots. Parents can ask their doctors to order preservative-free, single-dose vaccine for their kids, said Dr. Tom Frieden, head of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention.

As for his own two school-age children, Frieden said in a recent interview: "I would have no hesitation about getting my kids vaccinated by thimerosal-containing vaccines."

Health officials and many parents are strong believers in the vaccine, and warn about the potential dangers of a virus that has caused at least 9,000 U.S. hospitalizations and at least 600 deaths, including 60 children.

Jennifer Barnes enrolled herself and her two children in one of the government studies of the new vaccine, seizing an opportunity to get them all immunized before the illness became widespread.

"I thought, 'This is an opportunity to get the kids vaccinated, and I better jump on it,'" said Barnes, 32, a speech language pathologist who lives in Decatur, Ga.

Barnes said she gets her kids vaccinated against flu each year not only for their own health but to protect others. "My kids



Duncan Barnes, 1, being held by his mother Jennifer Barnes, reacts after receiving vaccine for swine flu from Dr. Allison Ross, left, and at the same time a vaccine for seasonal flu from a nurse at right, during a swine flu vaccination clinical trial for children at Emory Children's Center Sept., 2, 2009, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

hang around kids who might have lowered immune systems. I would hate for them to get something and pass it on," she said.

Shea said she appreciates those arguments, but she's hesitated to talk about swine flu vaccine with other parents, who seem polarized on the topic. "There's the crunchy granola group" against flu vaccinations, she said, "and the very staunch, follow everything group" who extol them.

She also worries that swine flu could become more widespread and dangerous than it is now.

If that happens, she said, she would probably try to get her son vaccinated, though she's aware there are risks in waiting, too.

"It's one of those things where you're almost damned if you do, damned if you don't," she said.

The AP-GfK poll was based on a nationally representative sample of 1,003 adults age 18 or older, contacted by telephone on land lines and cell phones. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points for all adults, 5.2 percentage points for parents. □

Exercise boosts well-being after breast cancer

By Joene Hendry

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) — Being told you have breast cancer is tough emotionally, but regular exercise can help you keep your spirits up, a new study shows.

Among Chinese women diagnosed with breast cancer, those reporting even low levels of regular exercise were more likely to report better physical, mental, and social well-being than those reporting no exercise, Dr. Xiaoli Chen of Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee, and colleagues found. Women who exercised at levels recommended by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services fared best. They reported the highest capacity for daily living and work or study, less distress, better body image, and higher quality relationships, the researchers report in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

In addition, the benefits of exercise were still evident more than 36 months after breast cancer diagnosis, Chen noted in an email to Reuters Health.

Examples of recommended levels of exercise include taking about a 45-minute brisk walk 3 days a week, or a 20-minute brisk walk daily; doing yoga for about 40 minutes 3 times a week or 20 minutes daily; or any aerobic exercise for about 30 minutes 3 times a week or 12 minutes daily.

Chen's team studied the value of exercise in 1,829 women diagnosed with breast cancer between 2002 and 2008, when they were nearly 54 years old on average and living in Shanghai, China.

Overall, 95 percent of the women had a mastectomy, 92 percent had chemotherapy and 28 percent had radiation therapy. Approximately 69 percent of the women exercised regularly at 6 months post-diagnosis and 74 percent were exercising regularly 36 months after their diagnosis. □



FILE- This April 1989 file photo shows American Thoroughbred Secretariat at the Claiborne Farm in Paris, Ky., in April 1989. The Triple Crown winner and it's owner is the subject of a movie that has begun filming in Kentucky.

(AP Photo/Tim Sharp, FILE)

By STEVE SZKOTAK, Associated Press Writer
DOSWELL, Va. — In an era defined by a dispiriting war and a surreal Washington scandal, Secretariat gave Americans and their bruised psyche something to cheer about when the big thoroughbred captured the Triple Crown in 1973.

The racehorse considered by many to be the best ever and the housewife-turned-

Secretariat's story heading to big screen

breeder who soared in a male-dominated sport are now coming to the big screen.

"Secretariat" has begun filming in Kentucky with Diane Lane portraying owner Penny Chenery and John Malkovich cast as trainer Lucien Laurin.

Mayhem Pictures, with the backing of Walt Disney Pictures, is producing "Secretariat." Mayhem's other uplifting sports-themed stories include "Miracle," about the 1980 U.S. Olympic ice hockey team, and "The Rookie" and "Invincible," both Walter Mitty tales.

Randall Wallace, who directed "We Were Soldiers," is directing.

A fall 2010 release is expected.

Unlike "Seabiscuit," the 2003 movie based on the undersized thoroughbred who buoyed the spirits of a Depression-era nation, "Secretariat" will focus on Chenery's improbable success in the old money, bourbon-sipping world of horse breeding and the chestnut stallion's stirring, record-shattering run for the Triple Crown. Like

"Seabiscuit," the nation's mood — in this case, the era of Watergate and Vietnam — is key to the storytelling.

"Really, it's Penny's story," producer Mark Ciardi said of Chenery, who left her life in Denver to take over ailing father Christopher Chenery's faltering horse breeding farm 20 miles north of Richmond in Doswell.

"Her coming into a man's world, learning and rekindling this love she had of horse racing," Ciardi said, shorthanding elements of Chenery's story. "She's this woman in a man's world, just doing what she has to do."

Chenery, now 87 and living in Boulder, Colo., is characteristically low-key about the challenges she faced running Meadow Farm, now the home of the State Fair of Virginia.

"It didn't occur to me that I was a woman in a man's field," she said. "I just thought I've got the best horse."

Secretariat was unquestionably that.

Besides his iconic 31-length win in the Belmont Stakes, "Big Red" set records there

and the Kentucky Derby that still stand 36 years later. Others — including the Daily Racing Form — insist he broke the track record at the Preakness. The disputed official time ultimately was upheld in arbitration.

"He's the best horse I've ever seen — and not just close, but by lengths," said William Nack, the retired Sports Illustrated writer who wrote "Secretariat: The Making of a Champion," the book upon which the movie draws heavily. He is a consultant for the film.

Nack, who primarily covered boxing and horse racing during his career, called Secretariat's Belmont win "the greatest sporting event up to its time." He calls it the equal

of Muhammad Ali's stunning KO of George Foreman in Zaire in 1974.

"It's a helluva story and I'm glad it's being told," Nack said.

While women could be found on the backside of tracks in the 60s and 70s, the sport was still dominated by larger-than-life men like Bull Hancock, who ran Kentucky's Claiborne Farm, the top thoroughbred farm of that period. In the film he is portrayed by Fred Thompson, the actor and former U.S. senator from Tennessee.

Chenery turned to Hancock when she needed help. But in keeping with the sensibilities of the era and the sport, she would not be allowed in the breeding pen at Claiborne. □

Father of Palin's grandson to pose for Playgirl



FILE - In this July 9, 2009 file photo, Levi Johnston, 19, is seen during a news conference in Anchorage, Alaska. Johnston, the former fiance of former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's 18-year-old daughter, Bristol Palin will pose for Playgirl. Johnston's attorney, Rex Butler, says a formal agreement has not been reached with the online magazine but adds it's a "foregone conclusion" it will happen.

(AP Photo/Mark Thiessen, file)

By RACHEL D'ORO, Associated Press Writer
Rachel D'oro, Associated Press Writer — Thu Oct 8, 8:54 am ET ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Levi Johnston is going for the ultimate exposure — the 19-year-old father of Sarah Palin's grandchild will pose nude for Playgirl, his attorney said Wednesday. To get ready for his close-

up, Johnston is training three hours a day, six nights a week at an Anchorage gym with a local body builder.

A formal agreement hasn't been reached with the online magazine, but the photo shoot is a "foregone conclusion," said Johnston's attorney, Rex Butler.

Johnston fathered a son with Bristol, the 18-year-old daughter of Sarah Palin, the former Republican vice presidential candidate who resigned as Alaska's governor in July. Publication of the photographs could be a source of embarrassment for Palin, often mentioned as a possible 2012 presidential candidate. Her memoir, "Going Rogue," will be published next month and pre-sales already have made it a national best seller. Just after Sen. John McCain chose Palin as his running mate in August 2008, Johnston was thrust into the national spotlight when Palin abruptly announced her unwed daughter was pregnant and the couple would marry. The couple broke up after the birth of their son, Tripp, in December. The relationship between the Palins and Johnston since then has often been strained, mostly over visitation issues. □

Jackson doctor may face arrest over child support

By OSKAR GARCIA, Associated Press Writer
LAS VEGAS — The doctor at the center of an investigation into Michael Jackson's death may face arrest and could lose his medical license after missing a hearing to explain late child support payments, the Las Vegas district attorney said Thursday. Clark County District Attorney David Roger told The Associated Press that a district judge could approve an arrest warrant for Dr. Conrad Murray that's recommended by a family court hearing master within 10 days.

"At that time, we'll send our investigators out to locate and arrest Dr. Murray," Roger said. Roger says Murray, who owes \$13,000 in unpaid child support to a California woman, can object to the warrant before a judge approves it. Murray's lawyer in the Jackson

case, Edward Chernoff, is not representing Murray in the family court case, Chernoff spokeswoman Miranda Sevcik said Thursday.

"Ed's dealing with one thing and one thing only, and that's the investigation into Michael Jackson's death," Sevcik said. Sevcik said she did not know whether the 56-year-old doctor had another attorney for the child support case.

Roger said he also plans to ask the state medical board to suspend Murray's medical license because of the unpaid support. Roger said his office would soon file a motion in family court and send a letter to the board saying Murray is behind on his payments.

Murray would have 30 days after that to make good on past payments, or risk suspension of his professional license, Roger said. Nevada laws allow prosecutors to go



FILE - In this July 7, 2006 file photo, Dr. Conrad Murray poses for a photo as he opens the Acres Homes Cardiovascular Center at the Tidwell Professional Building, in Houston.

(AP Photo/Houston Chronicle, File)

after professional licenses belonging to those behind on child support.

"We're not singling out Dr. Murray, this is an option that we frequently use in order to make sure that people pay their obligations," Roger said.

Prosecutors in Los Angeles are weighing charges against Murray in the pop singer's death. Murray told police he administered a powerful anesthetic to the singer shortly before Jackson died June 25. □

AP source: Obama focusing on al-Qaida, not Taliban

JENNIFER LOVEN

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is prepared to accept some Taliban involvement in Afghanistan's political future and will determine how many more U.S. troops to send to the war based only on keeping al-Qaida at bay, a senior administration official said Thursday.

The sharpened focus by Obama's team on fighting al-Qaida above all other goals, while downgrading the emphasis on the Taliban, comes in the midst of an intensely debated administration review of the increasingly unpopular war.

Aides stress that the president's decision on specific troop levels and the other elements of a revamped approach is still at least two weeks away, and they say Obama has not tipped his hand in meetings that will continue at the White House on Friday.

Continued on Page B4



President Barack Obama speaks in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2009, before presenting 2008 medals of Science and medals of Technology.

Associated Press

Navy secretary: Time has come for women on subs

administration implementing the policy change.

Mabus gave no timeline for when the change would take effect. He says officials first must figure out how to do it and notify Congress about the plan.

Then women must complete training to serve.

Mabus says women should be able to serve throughout the Navy and the proposed change would be in keeping with that. His comments came Thursday during a visit to Northrop Grumman Corp.'s shipbuilding yard in Pascagoula. □



U.S. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, a former governor of Mississippi, answers questions of the media with the USS George H.W. Bush in the background in Newport News, Va., Monday, Sept. 28, 2009. Mabus is completing tours of the nation's shipyards with at Newport News, the nation's only builder of aircraft carriers.

Associated Press

BECKY BOHRER

Associated Press Writer

PASCAGOULA, Mississippi (AP) — Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus says allowing

women to serve on submarines is an idea whose time has come.

He says he sees no major hurdles from the Obama

Astor's son convicted of looting her \$200M fortune



Anthony Marshall and wife Charlene exit Manhattan State Supreme Court following the verdict, Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009, in New York. Marshall, Brooke Astor's 85-year-old son was convicted Thursday of exploiting his philanthropist mother's failing mind and helping himself to her nearly \$200 million fortune.

Associated Press

JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Philanthropist Brooke Astor's 85-year-old son was convicted Thursday of exploiting his mother's failing mind and helping himself to her nearly \$200 million fortune.

Anthony Marshall now faces a mandatory jail sentence of at least one year — and perhaps as many as 25 years.

Continued on Page B5



Afghans try to take a victim out of a car at the site of a blast in Kabul, Afghanistan on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009. The powerful explosion rocked the center of Afghanistan's capital early Thursday near the Interior Ministry and the Indian Embassy, where dozens of civilians were killed in an attack last year.

Associated Press

Taliban suicide attack kills 17 in Afghan capital

RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press Writer

KABUL (AP) — A suicide car bomber detonated his vehicle outside the Indian Embassy in the bustling center of the Afghan capital Thursday, killing 17 people in the second major attack in the city in less than a month.

Continued on Page B8

Senate Democrats agree to extend jobless benefits



By **JIM ABRAMS**
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats said Thursday they have reached a deal to extend unemployment insurance benefits to the nearly 2 million jobless workers across the country who are in danger of running out of assistance by the end of the year.
The agreement would give an additional 14 weeks of benefits to jobless workers in all 50 states. Workers in states with an unemployment rate at 8.5 percent or above would receive six weeks on top of that.

A sign is posted looking for job applicants in the window of The Popcorn Shop in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2009. The number of new claims for jobless benefits falls to the lowest level since early January, as employers cut fewer workers.

Associated Press

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., tried to bring the measure to a quick vote on the Senate floor, but Republicans objected, saying they needed more time to study the proposal and its costs and possibly offer amendments.
The House last month approved legislation that gives 13 weeks of extended benefits, but only in those 27 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico that have unemployment rates of at least 8.5 percent.
That formula drew opposition from senators, led by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., from states where the jobless rate doesn't reach the 8.5. percent threshold.
They argued that it was unfair to provide added assistance to workers in one state and not in another.
Supporters of extended benefits point to the lingering stagnation of the job market despite signs of economic recovery. The national unemployment rate is now 9.8

percent and is expected to top 10 percent before employers start hiring again.
"As of last month, 15 million unemployed Americans were competing for 3 million available jobs," said Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., who brokered the deal with Reid, Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., and Shaheen.
"Unemployed workers use these benefits to buy essentials and pay the bills," Shaheen said. "Extending unemployment benefits is one of the most effective actions we can take to stimulate the economy."
States offer 26 weeks of benefits, with the average payment about \$300 a week. With federal help, including several measures in the economic stimulus package passed last February, the unemployed in states hardest hit by the recession can receive up to 79 weeks of assistance.



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Congress extends hate crimes law to cover gays

JIM ABRAMS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House of Representatives vote Thursday put Congress on the verge of significantly expanding hate crimes law to make it a federal crime to assault people because of their sexual orientation. The legislation would bring major changes to law enacted in the days after the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968.

"No American should ever have to suffer persecution or violence because of who they are, how they look or what they believe," said the leader of the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, noting that hate crimes legislation has been on her agenda since she first entered Congress more than two decades ago.

She added that it's been 11 years since the gay college student Matthew Shepard, whose name was attached to the legislation, was murdered in the state of Wyoming.

Civil rights groups and their Democratic allies have come close to expanding the hate crimes bill several times in the past decade, but have always fallen short because of lack of House-Senate coordination or opposition from former President George W. Bush. But this time it appears they may succeed.

The bill was attached to a must-pass \$680 billion defense policy bill that the Senate could approve as early as next week. President Barack Obama, unlike his predecessor, has promised to sign it into law.

The House vote on the defense bill was 281-146. Unlike usual defense bill votes, most of those in opposition — 131 out of the 146 — were Republicans objecting strenuously to

inclusion of what they referred to as "thought crimes" legislation in a defense bill.

"The inclusion of 'thought crimes' legislation in what is otherwise a bipartisan bill for troop funding is an absolute disgrace," said Rep. Tom Price, head of the Republican conservative caucus.

Republican opponents were not assuaged by late changes in the bill to strengthen protections for religious speech and association — critics argued that pastors expressing beliefs about homosexuality could be prosecuted if their sermons were connected to later acts of violence against gays.

Supporters countered that prosecution could occur only when bodily injury is involved, and no minister or protester could be targeted for expressing opposition to homosexuality.

The bill also creates a new federal crime to penalize attacks against U.S. service members on account of their service.

Hate crimes legislation enacted after King's assassination defined hate crimes as those carried out on the basis of race, color, religion or national origin. It also limits the scope of



House Speaker Pelosi of Calif. takes part in her weekly news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009.

Associated Press

activities that would trigger federal involvement.

The proposed expansion would include crimes based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

It eases restrictions on federally protected activities.

"The day is within

sight when lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people will benefit from updating our nation's hate crimes laws and giving local law enforcement the tools they need to combat hate violence," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, the largest U.S. gay rights

group.

The FBI says there are some 8,000 hate crimes reported around the country in a year. More than half of those are motivated by racial bias. Next most frequent are crimes based on religious bias at around 18 percent and sexual orientation at 16 percent. □



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White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs speaks at the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009.

OBAMA

Continued from Page B1

But the thinking emerging from the strategy formulation portion of the debate offers a clue that Obama would be unlikely to favor a large military increase of the kind being advocated by the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Stanley McChrystal. McChrystal's troop request is said to include a range of options, from adding as few as 10,000 combat troops to — the general's strong preference — as many as 40,000.

Obama's developing strategy on the Taliban will "not tolerate their return to power," the senior official said in an interview with The Associated Press. But the U.S.

would fight only to keep the Taliban from retaking control of Afghanistan's central government — something it is now far from being capable of — and from giving renewed sanctuary in Afghanistan to al-Qaida, the official said.

The official is involved in the discussions and was authorized to speak about them but not to be identified by name because the review is still under way.

Bowing to the reality that the Taliban is too ingrained in Afghanistan's culture to be entirely defeated, the administration is prepared to accept some Taliban role in parts of Afghanistan, the official said. That could mean paving the way for Taliban members willing to renounce

violence to participate in a central government — the kind of peace talks advocated by Afghan President Hamid Karzai to little receptiveness from the Taliban. It might even mean ceding some regions of the country to the Taliban.

In Kabul on Thursday, a suicide car bomber detonated his vehicle outside the Indian Embassy and killed 17 people in the second major attack in the city in less than a month. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

Obama has talked positively about reaching out to moderates in the Taliban since he first announced a new Afghanistan strategy in March. It would be akin to, though more complicated than, the successful efforts in Iraq to persuade Sunni Muslim insurgents to cooperate with U.S. forces against al-Qaida there.

Obama has conferred nearly every day this week on the war, and continued that Thursday afternoon with Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

On Wednesday, the eighth anniversary of the war launched by President George W. Bush after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Obama and more than a dozen officials in his war council met for three hours to focus on Afghanistan's neighbor, Pakistan. Another of those larger discussions — the fourth of five currently scheduled — is set for Friday, on Afghanistan. That meeting also could feature the group's first discussion of specific troop options.

In the first two of the sessions, which are taking place in the secure Situation Room in the White House basement, Obama kept returning to one question for his advisers: Who is our adversary, the official said.

The answer was al-Qaida, as it was back in March.

Amid changing circumstances in Afghanistan, the renewed determination has big implications for the current war debate.

There now are no more than 100 al-Qaida in Afghanistan. Instead, the U.S. fight in Afghanistan is against the Taliban, now increasingly defined by the Obama team as distinct from al-Qaida.

While still dangerous, the Taliban is seen as an indigenous movement with almost entirely local and territorial aims and far less of a threat to the U.S.

Obama's team believes some elements in the Taliban are aligned with al-Qaida, with its transnational reach and aims of attacking the West, but probably not the majority and mostly for tactical rather than ideological reasons, the official said.

"They're not the same type of group," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said. "It's certainly not backed up by any of the intelligence."

That leaves the primary aim in Afghanistan to deny al-Qaida any ability to regroup there as it did when the Taliban was in power before the U.S. ousted them.

A focus on al-Qaida is the driving force behind an approach being advocated by

Biden as an alternative to the McChrystal recommendation for a fuller counterinsurgency effort inside Afghanistan.

Biden has argued for keeping the American force there around the 68,000 already authorized, including the 21,000 extra troops Obama ordered earlier this year, but significantly increasing the use of unmanned Predator drones and special forces for the kind of surgical anti-terrorist strikes that have been successful in Pakistan, Somalia and elsewhere.

There also is increasing reluctance among Obama's advisers to commit large additional numbers of troops because of concerns about the impact on already severely strained U.S. forces and the troubled Karzai government.

In Pakistan, however, the administration has been encouraged by the government's recent willingness to aggressively battle extremists inside its borders. Getting additional cooperation from Pakistan is delicate, as the anti-extremist operations remain extremely controversial there and the U.S.-backed civilian government in Islamabad is weak. But the administration sees opportunity there nonetheless.

Clinton has not revealed how she is leaning in the sessions, according to aides. While she is broadly supportive of building up troop levels — although not necessarily in the bigger numbers favored by McChrystal — she also believes economic and other civilian efforts must be prominent parts of the plan too, said the aides, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to detail her views.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates, long wary of a large troop presence in Afghanistan, appears to have grown more comfortable with the prospect of a moderate, middle-path increase.

Many lawmakers from Obama's own Democratic Party do not want to see additional U.S. troops sent to Afghanistan. According to a new Associated Press-GfK poll, public support for the war has dropped to 40 percent from 44 percent in July. □



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Capone's Wisconsin hideout sells for \$2.6 million

By ROBERT IMRIE

Associated Press Writer

WAUSAU, Wis. — The one-time gangster's house is built of stone with 18-inch thick walls and protected with guard towers, just in case G-men or goons with machine guns inside violin cases come calling.

Chicago mobster Al Capone, local legend says, used the 37-acre lake nearby for seaplanes carrying shipments of bootleg alcohol, before they were loaded onto trucks bound for the speakeasies of Chicago in the days of Prohibition.

Capone's hideout, 407 acres of wooded property in northern Wisconsin about 150 miles northwest of Wausau, is owned now by the bank that foreclosed on it more than a year ago after no other bidders emerged at the \$2.6 million floor price.

But Chippewa Valley Bank, which bought the site for the minimum bid during a five-minute sheriff's sale Thursday in Hayward, doesn't want to own it for long. So what the lender describes as a "very private and pristine" property with some notorious gangster history is still on the block.

Other parties are certainly interested, the bank's Vice President Joe Kinnear said — but for something less than \$2.6 million.

He said at least four people want to buy the property, perhaps to restore it to what it once was — a restaurant, museum and tourist area.

"It looks like we are going to have our hands full trying to get rid of it to these other individuals," Kinnear said. "We will market it and sell it. Somebody will buy it."

He hopes that happens within

90 days.

Capone — nicknamed "Scarface" — owned the land in the late 1920s and early 1930s during Prohibition, the bank said. The two guard towers on the property reportedly were manned with machine guns whenever he visited.

The bank acquired the property after foreclosing in April 2008 on owner Guy Houston and his company The Hideout Inc., according to court records. The Houston family bought the property in the 1950s from Capone's estate and had operated it as a seasonal bar and restaurant, known for its prime rib, and offered guided tours focusing on the Capone lore. Kinnear said Houston still has until Oct. 28 to settle his debt with the bank before the title is officially transferred.

Houston's attorney, Todd A.



This Sept. 2000 photo shows Guy Houston, left, giving a tour of The Hideaway, former summer retreat of Al Capone, past the main lodge in Couderay, Wis. Capone's old rural hideout, complete with guard towers and a stone house with 18-inch-thick walls, was sold for \$2.6 million Thursday Oct. 8, 2009 to the bank that foreclosed on it.

Associated Press

Smith of Rice Lake, did not immediately return a telephone message Thursday.

Capone headed a massive bootlegging, gambling and prostitution operation during Prohibition and raked in tens of millions of dollars. He was widely suspected in several murders but never charged.

He was considered the mastermind of the gangland killing on Chicago's North

Side in 1929, known as the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. Seven rivals of Capone's gang were gunned down in a garage, but investigators never could collect enough evidence to put anyone on trial for the deaths. Capone was eventually convicted of income tax evasion and spent part of an 11-year sentence at the infamous Alcatraz prison. He died in 1947. □



Francis Morrissey, left, exits Manhattan State Supreme Court with his attorney Thomas Puccio following the verdict, Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009, in New York. The jury found the one time lawyer of Anthony Marshall guilty on all counts in the trial of the late socialite and philanthropist Brooke Astor.

Associated Press

\$200M FORTUNE

Continued from Page B1

Jurors delivered their verdict on the 11th full day of deliberations, ending a five-month trial that revealed the New York society doyenne's sad decline. She was 105 and had Alzheimer's disease when she died in 2007.

The jury convicted Marshall of 14 counts, including first-degree grand larceny and scheming to defraud, but acquitted him on two charges,

falsifying business records and another first-degree grand larceny count. His co-defendant, estate lawyer Francis X. Morrissey Jr., was convicted on all five charges, including scheming to defraud, conspiracy and forgery.

Marshall, wearing a dark suit, looked at the jurors as they were polled. Morrissey, 66, looked down but didn't betray any emotion. They will remain free on bail until their Dec. 8 sentencing. Morrissey faces

up to seven years in prison.

"I'm stunned by the verdict," said Marshall's attorney, Frederick Hafetz. "We are greatly disappointed in it, and we will definitely appeal."

After the jury left the courtroom, Marshall's wife, Charlene, stood at the rail with her hand on Marshall's shoulder, her eyes glistening. When reporters asked her for a response, she said only, "I love my husband," and gave him a brief hug. The couple walked out of the courthouse, hand in hand, to a waiting limousine. The trial offered a peek into high society from Park Avenue to Palm Beach as prosecutors told a Dickensian tale of upper-crust money-grubbing with a deteriorating grande dame at its center.

The case put Astor's famous friends, including TV personality Barbara Walters and former statesman Henry Kissinger, on the witness stand and her dark final years on display. Jurors heard how a beau monde benefactor renowned for her elegance and wit became a disoriented invalid fearful of her own shadow.

Marshall "stole from his mother while she suffered

from Alzheimer's disease, making her life worse while enriching his own," prosecutor Elizabeth Loewy said after the verdict.

Marshall was accused of a range of tactics — from scheming to inherit millions of dollars to simply stealing artwork off her walls. Morrissey was accused of helping manipulate a confused Astor into changing her will to leave Marshall millions of dollars that had been destined for charity.

Jurors left the courthouse without speaking to reporters. They rejected only the falsifying business records charge — it alleged that Marshall lied to an accountant about \$757,000 he got from Astor — and a grand larceny count that concerned the \$10 million sale of one of her favorite paintings. Prosecutors claimed Marshall misled his mother about the state of her finances so he could sell the artwork, Childe Hassam's "Flags, Fifth Avenue."

Astor's last will, created Jan. 30, 2002, left millions of dollars to her favorite charities. Amendments in 2003 and 2004 gave Marshall most of her estate.

Prosecutors portrayed Marshall — a former U.S. ambassador and Tony Award-winning Broadway producer — as a greedy heir who couldn't wait for his mother to die, buying himself a \$920,000 yacht with her money but refusing to get a \$2,000 safety gate to keep her from falling.

Defense lawyers said Astor was lucid when she bequeathed the money to her only child and that he had legal power to give himself gifts while she was alive. She was keenly focused on her will, and she loved her son, they said.

Morrissey, whose convictions include forging Astor's signature on one of the changes to her will, declined to comment as he left the courthouse. Defense lawyer Thomas Puccio said Morrissey planned to appeal.

The trial delved into Astor's shadowy mental state, health problems, finances and family relations. Jurors got crash courses in topics ranging from estate planning to handwriting analysis.

Prosecutors called some 72 witnesses. Many of them testified about Astor's mental confusion in the last years of her life. □



A man watches as sea waves lap onto a parking lot in Fujisawa, near Tokyo, Japan, Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009. Typhoon Melor slammed into Japan on Thursday, causing widespread damage and flooding as it swept across the country.

Associated Press

JAY ALABASTER

Associated Press Writer

TOKYO (AP) — A powerful typhoon tore through Japan’s main island Thursday, peeling roofs off houses, cutting electricity to hundreds of thousands and forcing flight cancellations before turning back toward the sea. Two men died.

During morning rush hour, more than 2 million commuters

in Tokyo were stranded for hours as train services on several lines were suspended, while in other regions trucks were toppled on highways and bridges were destroyed by flash floods.

A man died when his motorbike slammed into a downed tree in the coastal prefecture of Wakayama, and another was killed by a falling tree just north of Tokyo, police said.

Powerful typhoon slams into Japan, two men die

By evening, Typhoon Melor was downgraded to a tropical storm as it lost power over northern Japan. It was due to veer off the northeastern coast Thursday evening.

Nearly 100 people were injured and more than 11,000 people were evacuated to shelters, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

News broadcasts showed the damage left by the storm as it moved northeast across the country — partially submerged cars, large shipping containers scattered by the wind, and damaged buildings with ceilings and walls torn away. Footage also showed huge waves crashing over storm barriers onto coastal roads.

Electrical power was gradually being restored to the more than

500,000 homes, according to Japan’s power companies.

Strong winds forced trains in Tokyo to stop midway between stations and unload passengers, and in some parts of Tokyo businessmen in suits rushed to work on roads alongside the dormant tracks. The usually punctual subways ran intermittently throughout the morning, according to Tokyo Metro Co.

The country’s major airlines said at least 400 domestic flights and 20 international flights had been canceled.

By the evening, the storm had moved northeast of Tokyo, where skies cleared and the weather turned balmy, and was near Kamaishi, 290 miles (470 kilometers) northeast of the capital. Winds were blowing at about 67 mph (108 kph),

with gusts up to 100 mph (160 kph).

Meanwhile in the Philippines, Typhoon Parma, which has weakened into a tropical depression, continued to buffet the northernmost region of the country with winds of 34 mph (55 kph). Flooding and landslides have caused at least 30 deaths since the weekend, and more than 44,000 people have been forced into evacuation centers, disaster relief officials said.

The latest fatalities were recorded in mountainous Benguet province, where separate landslides Thursday killed at least seven people, said Olive Luces, regional chief of the Office of Civil Defense. Parma was the second major storm to hit the country in the last two weeks. □



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TOY STORY 2

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SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF OCTOBER 8 - OCTOBER 14

*matinee: thursday - sunday | late show: friday and saturday

AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD					
PG	TOY STORY 1&2 3D				
NEW	daily:	4:00	6:00		
	matinee:	12:00	2:00	late show:	
R	SORORITY ROW				NEW
	daily:	4:15	6:30	8:45	
	matinee:	1:45		late show:	11:00
PG	SUSKE & WISKE				
	daily:	5:00			
	matinee:	12:45	3:00	late show:	12:15
PG	FAME				
	daily:	4:00	6:45	9:00	
	matinee:	12:00	2:15	late show:	11:15
R	FINAL DESTINATION 4				
	daily:		8:00	10:00	
	matinee:			12:00	
R	JENNIFER'S BODY				
	daily:	5:30	7:45	10:00	
	matinee:	1:00	3:15	late show:	12:15
R	WHITEOUT				
	daily:	7:00	9:15		
	matinee:		late show:	11:30	
R	THE INFORMANT				
	daily:	6:00	8:30		
	matinee:	1:00	3:30	late show:	11:00
AT PASEO HERENCIA					
PG	TOY STORY 1&2 3D				
NEW	daily:	4:15	6:15		
	matinee:	12:15	2:15	late show:	12:00
PG-13	SURROGATES				NEW
	daily:	6:30	8:45		
	matinee:	1:15	3:45	late show:	11:15
R	JENNIFER'S BODY				
	daily:	4:45	7:00	9:15	
	matinee:	12:15	2:30	late show:	11:30
PG-13	TYLER PERRY'S I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF				
	daily:		8:30		
	matinee:		late show:	11:15	
R	ZOMBIELAND				
	daily:	4:00	6:00	8:00	10:00
	matinee:	12:00	2:00	late show:	12:00
PG-13	G.I. JOE: THE RISE OF THE COBRA				
	daily:	6:00			
	matinee:	12:30	3:30	late show:	
R	FINAL DESTINATION 4				
	daily:		8:15	10:15	
	matinee:			late show:	12:15
R	WHITEOUT				
	daily:		5:15	7:30	9:45
	matinee:	12:45	3:00	late show:	12:00

Obama envoy in uphill struggle for Mideast peace

STEVE WEIZMAN

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — President Barack Obama's Mideast envoy finds himself increasingly hamstrung, with Israel's foreign minister on Thursday all but ruling out a peace deal for years to come and the Palestinian leader weakened by his decision not to push for a Gaza war crimes tribunal against Israel.

Jordan's King Abdullah II added a gloomy warning that prospects for peace are "sliding into darkness."

Obama envoy George Mitchell, visiting Israeli and Palestinian leaders for the second time in three weeks, is trying relentlessly to bring the sides together for talks, but the obstacles he faces are daunting.

Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman suggested that the two sides come up with a long-term interim arrangement that would ensure stability, while at the same time putting off a final deal. He recommended leaving the toughest issues — such as the status of disputed Jerusalem and a solution for Palestinian refugees who lost homes amid war — "to a much later stage."

"Anyone who says that within the next few years an agreement can be reached ending the conflict ... simply doesn't understand the situation and spreads delusions, ultimately leading to disappointments and an all-out confrontation here," Lieberman told Israel Radio.

Lieberman's suggestion will not necessarily translate into policy, which is set by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Netanyahu's office wouldn't comment when asked if Lieberman's comments reflected his opinion. But other senior Netanyahu confidants share similarly skeptical views on peacemaking.

Lieberman's approach runs counter to U.S. efforts to reach an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal quickly. The Palestinians have said they will not agree to an interim peace deal that would put off a resolution of the conflict indefinitely.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Ian

Kelly said Thursday that restarting negotiations is an urgent matter. "The time has come for both sides to agree to just cut right through all of this and get back to peace talks," he said.

On the Palestinian side, Israel's punishing winter offensive in Gaza deepened anger toward Israel and further reduced whatever sentiment there was for concessions to Israel in a peace deal. It also underlined Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' powerless position in Gaza, overrun by Hamas militants in 2007.

Abbas is walking a tightrope, trying not to appear intransigent to the White House while seeking to retain credibility with Palestinians accusing him of appeasing the Israelis.

On Wednesday, Gaza professors threw shoes at his defaced image and West Bank commentators called for his resignation, signs Abbas may have miscalculated in bowing to what Palestinian officials say was intense U.S. pressure to suspend Palestinian diplomatic efforts to get Israeli officials put on trial for war crimes in Gaza.

Nearly 1,400 Palestinians were killed in the war, including hundreds of civilians. Israel, which lost 13 civilians and soldiers in the war, launched the campaign to end years of Hamas rocket fire on Israeli border towns.

A 575-page U.N. report about the fighting alleges that both Israel and Hamas committed war crimes, something both sides deny.

Mitchell is due to hold separate meetings with Netanyahu and Abbas on Friday.

On his last trip, Mitchell failed to get them to the negotiating table. Abbas insisted that Israel halt all construction in West Bank settlements before talks could resume, but Netanyahu refused to make such a commitment.

Though Abbas and Netanyahu later attended a three-way meeting with Obama on the fringes of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the two sides remain far apart.

Jibril Rajoub, a leading



U.S. Mideast envoy George Mitchell, left, shakes hands with Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, during their meeting in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009. Lieberman declared Thursday that there is no chance of reaching a final accord with the Palestinians any time soon, casting a pall over Mitchell's latest effort to get peace talks moving again.

Associated Press

member of Abbas' Fatah movement, told reporters on Thursday that Abbas would tell Mitchell again when they meet that the Palestinians will not resume talks unless Israel freezes settlement construction.

Jordan's king was interviewed by the Israeli Haaretz daily, which planned to run the full

text on Friday. In an excerpt on its front page Thursday, the paper quoted Abdullah as saying "We are sliding back into the darkness" because of lack of movement toward peace.

Despite the gloomy atmosphere, Mitchell said Thursday he believes in his mission.

"President Obama ... and the U.S. government remain deeply and firmly committed toward achieving a comprehensive peace," he told reporters as he arrived for a meeting with Israeli President Shimon Peres. "They believe there is no alternative to that if all the people of the region are to be able to live in peace." □



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The wreckage of a vehicle used in a bombing attack is being towed away at the site of an explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan, Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009. The powerful car bomb exploded outside the Indian Embassy in the busy center of Afghanistan's capital, killing scores, destroying vehicles and blowing off the walls of shops, officials said.

Associated Press

SUICIDE ATTACK

Continued from Page B1

The Afghan Foreign Ministry hinted at Pakistani involvement — a charge Pakistan denied.

The blast occurred a day after the war entered its ninth year and as President Barack

Obama was deliberating a request by the top commander Gen. Stanley McChrystal for up to 40,000 more troops. Opponents of a troop increase want to shift focus to missile strikes and special operations against al-Qaida-linked groups

in Pakistan.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack — the second against the Indian Embassy in the past two years — and specified that the Indians were the target.

In New Delhi, India's Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao said the driver of the sport utility vehicle "came up to the outer perimeter wall of the embassy in a car loaded with explosives." Three Indian paramilitary guards were wounded by shrapnel, Rao said.

Rao did not say who the Indians believed was responsible for the attack, which occurred about 8:30 a.m. along a commercial street that is also home to the Interior Ministry. However, the Afghan Foreign Ministry said the Thursday attack "was planned and implemented from outside of Afghan borders" by the same

groups responsible for the July 2008 suicide bombing at the Indian Embassy that killed more than 60 people.

The ministry statement made no mention of Pakistan. However, the Afghan government blamed Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence for the 2008 bombing at the Indian Embassy as well as involvement in a string of attacks in the country.

U.S. officials suspected the 2008 embassy bombing and other high profile attacks were carried out by followers of Jalaluddin Haqqani, a longtime Afghan militant leader whose forces are battling U.S. forces in eastern Afghanistan from sanctuaries in the border area of Pakistan. At U.S. urging, the Pakistani military says it's planning an offensive against extremists in the border area.

In Islamabad, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Abdul Basit, condemned Thursday's bombing.

"Whenever terrorist activity occurs it should strengthen our resolve to eradicate and eliminate this menace," he said. Basit called allegations of a Pakistani role in the Kabul bombing "preposterous."

The Taliban did not say why it targeted the Indian Embassy. India and Pakistan, archrivals since the 1947 partition of the Indian subcontinent, are competing for influence in Afghanistan among rival ethnic groups. India maintains close ties with the Tajik community, and Pakistan with the Pashtuns, who form the majority of the Taliban.

Thursday's blast was the deadliest attack in Kabul since Sept. 17, when a suicide bomber killed 16 people, including six Italian soldiers and 10 Afghan civilians, on a road in the center of the capital.

The Interior Ministry said 15 civilians and two Afghan police officers were killed in Thursday's blast. At least 76 people were wounded, the ministry said. President Hamid Karzai, the U.S. Embassy and the United Nations mission all condemned the attack.

After months of relative calm, the Afghan capital has been shaken recently by an increasing number of suicide attacks and roadside bombings that began in the run-up to

the country's disputed Aug. 20 election. The attacks usually target international military forces or government installations, but Afghan businesses and civilians are also often killed or injured.

Police sealed off the area after the blast. The Indian news channel CNN-IBN cited Jayant Prasad, India's ambassador in Kabul, as saying the blast caused "extensive damage to the chancery." He said the bomb was so powerful that it blew off some of the embassy's doors and windows.

The explosion also damaged a line of shops between the embassy and the Interior Ministry, shattering glass and rattling buildings more than a mile (kilometer) away. A huge brown plume of smoke was visible in the air as ambulances raced to the scene and carried away the wounded.

A European police officer assigned as an adviser to the Interior Ministry and an Afghan interpreter were slightly wounded by flying glass, training spokesman Andrea Angeli said.

A 21-year-old Afghan man, who gave his name only as Najibullah, said he had just opened his shop when the explosion went off, knocking him unconscious. When he awoke, he said, he couldn't see anything because of dust and debris.

"Dust was everywhere. People were shouting," Najibullah said. "You couldn't see their faces because there was so much dust."

His white clothes were covered in blood after helping load four injured onto ambulances. AP Television News footage showed local residents and soldiers pulling a charred, severed leg out of a destroyed vehicle. Others carried an apparently lifeless body on a stretcher to an ambulance.

On another stretcher, a man lay face down, one arm hanging downward, his left leg covered in blood. Two United Nations vehicles were near the blast and one was badly damaged, spokesman Dan McNorton confirmed. Both vehicles had only a driver inside, and neither was wounded. The U.N. typically uses armored vehicles in Kabul that are designed to withstand such attacks. □

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Nobel lit prize goes to little-known European

HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

The judges, apparently, could not help themselves.

Just two days after a Nobel Prize official worried the literature committee was too “Eurocentric,” the winner for 2009 was Herta Mueller, a Romanian-born writer once censored in her native country.

It’s no conspiracy, said permanent secretary Peter Englund. It’s more geography.

“If you are European (it is) easier to relate to European literature,” Englund told The Associated Press after the prize was announced Thursday. “It’s the result of psychological bias that we really try to be aware of. It’s not the result of any program.”

Mueller, whose Nobel was seen as a nod to the 20th anniversary of communism’s collapse, was persecuted in her native Romania for her critical depiction of life behind the Iron Curtain.

She was cited by the committee for “the concentration of poetry and the frankness of prose” in such novels as “The Land of Green Plums,” which describe “the landscape of the dispossessed.” Beyond the judges’ praise, she will receive \$1.4 million in prize money. Mueller, 56, had to smuggle her early work to Germany to get it published and moved there in 1987. Her latest novel, “Atemschaukel,” or “Swinging Breath,” is up for this year’s German Book Prize, to be announced Monday.

Like last year’s Nobel laureate, Jean-Marie Gustave le Clezio of France, little of Mueller’s work is available in English translation, although various publishers say they plan reissues.

Writers from all over the world have won Nobels in the prize’s 108-year history, but European-based authors, whether natives or emigrants, have had a virtual monopoly in recent years — a trend the committee has defended, apologized for and perpetuated.

In 2008, then-permanent secretary Horace Engdahl

declared bluntly that Europeans tended to win because they deserved to win, especially compared to Americans, whom Engdahl dismissed as “too sensitive to trends in their own mass culture.”

Englund, in an AP interview this week, hinted strongly that the committee was looking elsewhere. Without naming names, he said some American authors indeed were worthy of the prize. He acknowledged that members of the Swedish Academy, who choose the winner and are themselves European, tend to “relate more easily to literature written in Europe and in the European tradition.”

“I think that is a problem,” Englund said Tuesday. Apparently not so big a problem.

“Every prize inevitably faces these kinds of issues. You could say the same about the Pulitzers or National Book Awards, that certain types of books seem more likely to

be under consideration,” said Mike Levine, an acquisitions editor for Northwestern University Press, which has published some of Mueller’s work in English translation.

Levine said such recent choices as Mueller, Doris Lessing and Harold Pinter show the academy is interested not just in European writers, but in European writers whose books address political issues. Still, “writers in other parts of the world are doing that, so it should be easy, I would think, to find those writers,” he said. No American has won since Toni Morrison, in 1993. Other countries, and continents, have waited longer. Canada is home to at least three of the world’s most respected authors — Margaret Atwood, Alice Munro and Michael Ondaatje. But the last Canadian to receive the Nobel was Saul Bellow, who won in 1976 and left for the U.S. as a boy. No South American writer has won since Gabriel



German writer Herta Mueller reacts, during a news conference in Berlin, Germany, Thursday Oct. 8, 2009. Herta Mueller, a little-known Romanian-born author who was persecuted for her critical depictions of life behind the Iron Curtain, won the 2009 Nobel Prize in literature Thursday in an award seen as a nod to the 20th anniversary of communism’s collapse.

Associated Press

Garcia Marquez in 1982.

“I don’t think the awards are too ‘Eurocentric,’ but I do think we’d benefit from seeing more writers from Asia, South America, Africa on the list,” said Chad Post, director of Open Letter Books, a nonprofit publishing house

at the University of Rochester that specializes in literature in translation. “In any given year, one can come up with a list of 10-20 writers from all over the world that are deserving of the award, and then it tends to go to someone that no one is even talking about.” □



French Culture Minister Frederic Mitterrand, seen, prior to answering questions, during the private French television channel TF1 eight o’clock news, Thursday Oct. 8, 2009 in Boulogne-Billancourt, west of Paris. France’s culture minister is struggling to keep his job amid an uproar about a 2005 book in which he details Bangkok’s brothels and the pleasure and freedom of paying “boys” for sex.

Associated Press

ANGELA CHARLTON

Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP) — France’s culture minister denied Thursday paying boys for sex, in an impassioned response to critics on the right and left demanding that he resign over a candid book recounting encounters with male prostitutes in Thailand.

“I condemn sexual tourism, which is a disgrace. I condemn pedophilia, which I have never in any way participated in,” Frederic Mitterrand, 62, nephew of late President Francois Mitterrand, said in a national prime time television interview.

“All those who accuse me of this kind of thing should be ashamed.” In a 2005 book, “La mauvaise vie” or “The Bad Life,” Mitterrand describes Bangkok’s brothels in rich, torrid detail, and the joy and freedom of paying “boys” for sex.

On Thursday, Mitterrand said on TF1 television that the book was not a strict autobiography. He admitted to “errors” in paying

French culture minister denies paying boys for sex

for sex in the past, but said he had relations only with men his age.

The exploits described in the book came back to haunt him recently, after he jumped to the defense of filmmaker Roman Polanski. Polanski is currently in a Swiss prison on U.S. charges relating to his sexual relations with a 13-year-old girl in 1977, when he was 43.

As excerpts of Mitterrand’s book circulated publicly in France this week, a cascade of political figures called for him to quit or be fired after a leader of the far-right National Front launched a tirade on television against Mitterrand and read excerpts from the 4-year-old book.

Mitterrand shot back firmly Thursday, saying he had no intention of leaving the government. He said he spoke to President Nicolas Sarkozy — who has not spoken publicly about the book — Thursday morning and Sarkozy “confirmed his confidence” in the culture minister.

The affair is awkward for France and especially Sarkozy, whose embrace of figures outside the conservative fold such as Mitterrand has upset the governing UMP party. Mitterrand’s critics say it’s about child sex tourism, which France’s government is campaigning against. But it also involves a politician’s sex life, which many French consider private business, and a public figure’s recognition of his homosexuality.

“We must not confuse pedophilia and homosexuality,” Mitterrand said on TF1, visibly upset by days of high-profile criticism. He said his book was neither a memoir nor a novel. “I preferred to leave things vague,” he said.

Asked whether he made a mistake in paying for sex in Thailand with “boys,” he said: “An error, without a doubt. A crime, no.” “Each time I was with people who were my age, or who were five years younger — there wasn’t the slightest ambiguity — and who were consenting,” he said. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Dodgers rally past Cardinals for 2-0 series lead

By BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — All that Matt Holliday needed to do was make the catch, and the Cardinals would have tied the series. Instead, his error gave Los Angeles a second chance, and St. Louis wound up on the brink of elimination.

Holliday dropped a sinking line drive with two outs in the ninth inning, leading to a two-run rally by the Dodgers that gave them a 3-2 victory Thursday.

Ronnie Belliard and pinch-hitter Mark Loretta came through with RBI singles off closer Ryan Franklin, giving the Dodgers a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five NL playoff series. Game 3 is Saturday in St. Louis. The Cardinals got a second-inning homer from Holliday and a stellar performance from starter Adam Wainwright, who left with a 2-1 lead after eight innings. Still, St. Louis went home empty-handed after opening the series with two Cy Young Award candidates on the mound: Chris Carpenter and Wainwright. “Right now we’re feeling disappointed, upset,” manager Tony La Russa said. “Right now, I think it’s important to get upset. To turn the page too quickly, it means you don’t care.” With the bases empty in the ninth and St. Louis on the verge on tying the series, Holliday charged in on James Loney’s liner to left field. But the ball hit his midsection and dropped to the grass, allowing Loney to reach second.

Franklin walked Casey Blake before Belliard singled up the middle, scoring pinch-runner Juan Pierre. A passed ball moved runners up to second and third, and Franklin walked Russell Martin on four pitches to load the bases.

Continued on Page B12



Los Angeles Dodgers' Matt Kemp, right, celebrates Mark Loretta's base hit to win the game along with Russell Martin, left, during the ninth inning of Game 2 of the National League division baseball series against the St. Louis Cardinals, Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009, in Los Angeles. The Dodgers won 3-2.

Associated Press

AP NewsBreak: Congress to look into Vikings case



FILE -- This is a Sept. 20, 2009, file photo showing Minnesota Vikings defensive tackles Pat Williams (94) and Kevin Williams (93) walking off the field after an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions in Detroit.

Associated Press

FREDERIC J. FROMMER, Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Energy and Commerce Committee plans to conduct a hearing next month on the case of two professional football players whose suspensions were blocked by a federal appeals court.

Committee Chairman Henry Waxman is concerned that the legal issues raised in the case “could result in weaker performance-enhancing drugs policies for professional sports,” the committee said in a statement issued to The Associated Press Thursday. The committee provided the statement after the AP reported the hearing, citing two people with knowledge of the committee plans. The

two spoke on the condition of anonymity because the hearing had not yet been announced.

The NFL had attempted to suspend Minnesota Vikings Pat Williams and Kevin Williams four games each for violating the league’s anti-doping policy.

But the players sued, arguing that the NFL’s testing violated state workplace laws. A federal judge issued an injunction blocking the order, which was upheld last month by a three-judge panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The decision troubled the NFL and professional sports leagues, which expressed concern about players being subjected to different standards depending on their state. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell

said after the ruling that the NFL was considering its next step, which could include an appeal, a trial in state court, or taking the issue to Congress. Subsequently, the league was granted more time to file documents asking the court to reconsider the suspensions.

The league wants to suspend both Williams, who are not related, for testing positive for a banned substance during training camp in 2008. They acknowledge taking the over-the-counter weight loss supplement StarCaps, which did not state on the label that it contained the diuretic bumetanide. The diuretic is banned by the NFL because it can mask the presence of steroids; the players are not accused of taking steroids. □

NHL Roundup Prucha's on-his-back goal leads Coyotes past Pens

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Petr Prucha pushed the puck into the net while sitting on a Penguins player’s back in the second period as the Phoenix Coyotes took advantage of nine power plays to beat Pittsburgh 3-0 on Wednesday.

Ilya Bryzgalov made 24 saves, only a handful of them difficult, as the Penguins played a flat, error-filled and uninspired game before leaving on a five-game road trip.

Ed Jovanovski also scored on a power play for Phoenix, which is 2-0 with one game remaining on a season-opening road trip that began at Los Angeles. Last season, the Coyotes managed 30 points on the road, the fewest in the Western Conference, and won successive games away from home twice.

Radim Vrbata scored into an empty net with 54 seconds remaining — his third goal and fourth point in two games.

Canucks 7, Canadiens 1

At Vancouver, British Columbia, Henrik Sedin scored twice in a 3:37 span of the second period and had an assist to lead Vancouver to its first victory of the season.

Ryan Kesler, Mason Raymond and Steve Bernier scored their first goals of the season late in the first period, and Mikael Samuelsson and Alex Burrows scored 19 seconds apart in the third to help Vancouver avoid the first 0-4 start in franchise history. Roberto Luongo, who was pulled in Vancouver’s last game and came in with an uncharacteristic .820 save percentage and 4.55 goals-against average, made 27 saves.

Tomas Plekanec scored for Montreal, and Carey Price stopped 25 of 32 shots before being pulled with 8 minutes left. The Canadiens lost for the second time in two nights after winning their first two games. □

U.S. gets on the board first at Presidents Cup

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The United States took a 3½-2½ lead over the International team in the Presidents Cup on Thursday, a good start that was tempered only in the final match when Justin Leonard missed a 3-foot putt that led to a tie.

One putt changed everything except the lead.

The Americans were poised to seize control in the opening session of foursomes at Harding Park, already assured of the lead and on the verge of winning the final match for a two-point advantage.

Leonard had a 3-foot birdie putt to win — a putt he first thought had been conceded — and was stunned when the putt caught the right edge of the cup and spun away and the match was halved.

“We wanted to get out of the day with pretty close to a push, and I’m very, very happy,” International captain Greg Norman said.

He was fortunate for that.

Tiger Woods and Steve Stricker were dominant from the start, playing bogey-free in the difficult alternate-shot format and teaming up for six birdies in a 6-and-4 victory over Geoff Ogilvy and 18-year-old Ryo Ishikawa.

Phil Mickelson and Anthony Kim closed with four straight birdies to give the Americans the first point of the matches with a 3-and-2 victory over Mike Weir and Tim Clark.

The momentum switched to American red on the scoreboard late on the cloudy, cool afternoon on this public course south of San Francisco. The final push figured to come from Leonard and Jim Furyk, who made a furious rally in the middle of the match and surged ahead of Retief Goosen and Y.E. Yang, 2 up with two holes to play.

Goosen holed a birdie putt on the 17th to send the match to the par-5 18th, and the South African missed the green to the right. Leonard hit a splendid fairway metal to the middle of the green, setting up what appeared to be a two-putt birdie.

Furyk lagged to 3 feet, the International team got up-and-down for birdie, and Goosen looked over at Furyk as if wondering why Leonard even needed to putt. Eventually, the South African realized the putt meant something.

Did it ever.

The Americans were ready to celebrate another point. The International team was prepared for another big deficit.

“I just hit a bad putt,” Leonard said. “I knew I was going to need to make that little putt. Unfortunately, I missed it.”

Norman said there was no gamesmanship on Goosen’s part.

“He thought the match was over,” Norman said. “He didn’t concede the putt, he just thought the match was over. It was a legitimate mistake, and no intent or malice. It was just the intensity of the game.”

Next up are six more matches Friday, this time fourballs.

Two years ago, the International team failed to win a match in the opening session and fell five points behind. This is one time a tie — the halve in the

final match — felt far better. It goes into the second round with a fighting chance.

Both teams and captains were around for the finish, and Norman couldn’t help but notice how Leonard went from hitting a clutch shot from the middle of the fairway to missing a short putt for the victory.

“It’s a cruel game,” Norman said.

In the seven previous Presidents Cup, only once has a team trailing after the first session gone on to win — the U.S. team in 2005. The Americans also trailed by one point in 2003 in South Africa, where the cup ended in a tie.

Ishikawa had said he and Ogilvy would be facing the Americans’ best team, and he was right. Woods and Stricker proved to be a tough combination of Woods’ pure iron shots and Stricker’s sure putting.

Woods got them going with an 18-foot birdie putt on the opening hole, while Stricker closed out a flawless front nine with a 30-foot birdie putt on the par-3 ninth.



United States player Phil Mickelson, right, congratulates partner Anthony Kim on his birdie putt to win the fifth hole during their foursomes match against International players Mike Weir and Tim Clark at golf's Presidents Cup at Harding Park Golf Course, Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

Weir and Clark, the only partnership that failed to make a single birdie, still managed a 1-up lead through 12 holes because of the wild play of Kim, who is missing some of his swagger from the Ryder Cup last year. He relied heavily on Mickelson to dig them out of trouble, including a remarkable shot from the edge

of a bunker, under a tree. Kim delivered at the right time, however, hitting a wedge to 3 feet for birdie and the lead, then a 7-iron to 18 feet that Mickelson converted into a birdie to seize control.

“We needed something to ignite us and that wedge shot did the trick,” Mickelson said.

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Rockies top shaky Hamels 5-4, tie series



Philadelphia Phillies catcher Carlos Ruiz, left, talks with starting pitcher Cole Hamels during the fifth inning of Game 2 of the National League division baseball series against the Colorado Rockies, Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

By **ROB MAADDI**

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Cole Hamels isn't going to breeze through this postseason. Yorvit Torrealba hit a two-run homer, Aaron Cook pitched effectively into the sixth inning and the Colorado Rockies beat Hamels and the Philadelphia Phillies 5-4 Thursday to even their NL playoff series at a game apiece.

Huston Street pitched out of trouble in the ninth to secure the win for Colorado. He retired Shane Victorino on a soft liner to second to leave the potential tying run — Game 1

winner Cliff Lee — at second base.

Hamels, the World Series and NLCS MVP last year, looked nothing like the guy who was so dominant during Philadelphia's championship run last October. The left-hander allowed four runs and seven hits in five innings. He didn't stick around after departing, rushing off to be with his wife, Heidi, who was in labor with the couple's first child.

The best-of-five series shifts to Denver for Game 3 on Saturday. Jason Hammel (10-8) will start for the wild-

card Rockies against a yet-to-be-announced pitcher. The Phillies could use Joe Blanton, J.A. Happ or Pedro Martinez. Blanton pitched one inning in relief, allowing a run. Happ faced one batter and got knocked out of the game when Seth Smith hit a hard liner off the lower part of his left leg. X-rays on Happ's leg were negative.

Making his third start since a shoulder strain sidelined him for most of September, Cook allowed three runs and seven hits in five-plus innings. The right-handed sinkerballer got 12 of his 15 outs on grounders or strikeouts.

After Lee turned in a masterful performance in his playoff debut Wednesday, the Phillies were counting on Hamels to give them a commanding 2-0 series lead. But Hamels hasn't been the same pitcher since going 4-0 with a 1.80 ERA in five postseason starts last year. He was 10-11 with a 4.32 ERA this year, and now is 0-7 in day games.

The Phillies are trying to become the first repeat champions since the New York Yankees won three World Series in a row from 1998-2000. No NL team has done it since the Cincinnati Reds in 1975-76.

For the second straight day,

the Phillies had the largest crowd in the six-year history of Citizens Bank Park. There were 46,528 fans packed in the ballpark, waving their white-and-red "Fightin' Phils" towels. Now, there's no guarantee they'll see another game this year.

Jayson Werth's solo homer off Rafael Betancourt in the eighth got the Phillies within a run and whipped the fans into a frenzy.

But Franklin Morales came in and retired Raul Ibanez on a sharp grounder. Street, who was 35 for 37 in save chances in the regular season, started the ninth.

He walked pinch-hitter Matt Stairs with one out. Lee, who became the first Phillies pitcher to steal a base in the postseason in Game 1, ran for the slow-footed Stairs. After Miguel Cairo flied to right, Jimmy Rollins singled to right. But Street got Victorino to end it.

Trailing 4-0, the Phillies finally got going in the sixth. Victorino led off with an infield single and advanced to second on second baseman Clint Barmes' throwing error. Chase Utley followed with a single and Ryan Howard lined an RBI double into the right-field corner, chasing Cook. □

DODGER RALLY

Continued from Page B1

Loretta, batting for reliever George Sherrill, was 0 for 15 in his career against Franklin before fisting a soft single to center that drove in Blake. That triggered a huge celebration, with teammates jumping on Loretta in a pile between first and second base.

"Unfortunately, I did know the numbers," Loretta said. "This series is far from over. St. Louis is a very talented team. We're going to have to keep battling as hard as we can."

The late rally was nothing new for the Dodgers. They won 23 regular-season games in their final at-bat, most in the National League, according to STATS LLC.

"I think it's just the confidence we have in the last inning," Loretta said.

Holliday was a huge reason the Cardinals won the NL Central. Acquired from Oakland in a trade in late July, the slugger's hitting tear helped St. Louis cruise to the division title.

His fielding gaffe on Thursday, however, cost the Cardinals dearly. Sherrill got the win for the Dodgers, in position for a sweep in the opening round for the second consecutive year. Last year, they won the first two games at Wrigley Field before closing out the Chicago Cubs at home in Game 3.

Franklin took the loss, spoiling an outstanding effort by Wainwright. The NL leader with 19 victories, Wainwright allowed three hits, struck out seven and walked one. That followed a subpar outing by Carpenter, who lasted only five innings and took the loss in Game 1. □

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MLS Roundup

Cunningham's late goal keeps Dallas alive

SANTA CLARA, California (AP) — Jeff Cunningham scored his league-leading 17th goal in the 82nd minute to help Dallas remain in playoff contention with a 2-1 victory over the San Jose Earthquakes in Major League Soccer on Wednesday. Colombian midfielder David Ferreira also scored for Dallas, which has won four of its last five games to move past Real Salt Lake and Toronto FC in the standings. Dallas is two points behind the final playoff berth and has two games left, both against higher-ranked teams it hopes to pass — Colorado and Seattle.

Cunningham's goal was one of his easiest of the season. He slotted the ball into an empty net after Dax McCarty slid the ball past charging goalkeeper Joe Cannon.


Cunningham helped set up Dallas' opening goal in the 49th minute, redirecting a pass from Heath Pearce to Ferreira, who dribbled past Cannon and sent the ball into the net.

San Jose rookie Quincy Amarikwa scored in the 73rd minute, but couldn't keep the last-place Earthquakes from being officially eliminated from playoff contention in their last home match of the season. □




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Diálogo Honduras no despierta optimismo Zelaya que critica OEA

TEGUCIGALPA (Reuters) - Representantes del Gobierno de facto de Honduras y del depuesto presidente Manuel Zelaya estaban reunidos el jueves en el segundo día de negociaciones para superar la crisis política, pero el entorno del derrocado mandatario no tenía mucha esperanza de llegar a una solución.

Los enviados de Zelaya, que fue depuesto el 28 de junio por militares y expulsado de Honduras, dijeron que el Gobierno de facto sigue renuente a restituirlo, como reclama desde hace meses la comunidad internacional.

“Mucho pesimismo tenemos, no vemos ningún ambiente positivo en la posición de las golpistas, ellos no están considerando la restitución de Zelaya al poder”, dijo Juan Barahona, uno de los representantes del derrocado líder, a Reuters.

Zelaya volvió clandestinamente a su país hace tres semanas en sus intentos por recuperar el poder luego de infructuosas negociaciones

diplomáticas desde el exilio, y desde entonces se encuentra refugiado en la embajada de Brasil, que está rodeada de policías y militares con órdenes de arrestarlo.

La Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) envió una misión de cancilleres para mediar en las nuevas negociaciones entre ambas partes que iniciaron con un encuentro el miércoles, en el que se estableció una agenda con un viejo plan del presidente costarricense Oscar Arias como punto de partida.

Pero meses atrás ese plan había fracasado porque el Gobierno de facto no aceptó su punto medular, la vuelta del destituido mandatario al poder.

Y las cosas parece que no cambiaron mucho. “Ya lo dije una y 100 veces, yo me muevo, yo me retiro de aquí (...) pero que él (Zelaya) no insista” con volver al poder, dijo Micheletti el miércoles, en una reunión con la misión de cancilleres de la OEA encabezada por su secretario general José Miguel

Insulza.

ZELAYA CRITICA

En una entrevista, Zelaya criticó a la misión de la OEA por no tener la fuerza suficiente para obligar a Micheletti a devolverle el poder.

“La OEA abandonó a la mitad del río el plan Arias y eso es una señal de mucha debilidad de ese organismo”, sostuvo al diario mexicano Excelsior. Zelaya, que tiene acusaciones de violar la Constitución y de actos de corrupción, anticipó un empeoramiento de la crisis en caso de que se continúe con el calendario de las elecciones propuestas por el Gobierno de facto para el 29 de noviembre.

“Si se imponen unas elecciones con fraude, la crisis se va a profundizar en los próximos días, si no existe una rectificación (...) de los golpistas que le permita al país recuperar la paz”, agregó el depuesto líder al periódico. En su segundo día de negociaciones, se espera que



El depuesto presidente de Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, lee una biblia antes de una reunión con el presidente de la OEA, José Miguel Insulza, en la embajada de Brasil en Tegucigalpa, 7 oct 2009. REUTERS/Edgard Garrido

las partes analicen el llamado “Acuerdo de San José” o plan Arias, que contempla la instalación de un Gobierno de

unidad nacional y una amnistía para los involucrados en el golpe, además del regreso de Zelaya. □

Brasil:

Congreso aprueba tratado con Vaticano

BRASILIA (AP) - El Senado aprobó un tratado entre Brasil y el Vaticano que concede estatuto jurídico a la iglesia Católica y que fue criticado por otras denominaciones por considerar que le daría preferencias al catolicismo, informó el jueves el Congreso.

El tratado, firmado en noviembre de 2008 durante una visita del presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva al Vaticano, fue aprobado la noche del miércoles en una votación simbólica en la cámara alta sin polémicas ni disidencias.

Por el contrario, el tratado generó discusiones en la Cámara de Diputados, donde legisladores evangélicos cuestionaron supuestas preferencias a la iglesia Católica, aunque fue aprobado en agosto. Con la votación del Senado, el tratado aguarda la ratificación del presidente Lula para entrar en vigor.

El senador Fernando Collor, relator del proyecto, negó que el pacto perjudique el funcionamiento de otras denominaciones religiosas ni impide la enseñanza de otras religiones. Más bien, aseguró, establece la obligación del estado de proteger a todas las denominaciones “asegurando a todas el mismo derecho de acceso a los fieles en la fase escolar”. □

Venezuela anunciará el jueves medidas para reactivar economía

CARACAS (Reuters) - El Gobierno de Venezuela anunciará el jueves un paquete de medidas económicas que, según han dicho funcionarios, buscan reactivar la producción, fortalecer el bolívar y reducir la galopante inflación.

El gabinete económico convocó para una conferencia de prensa en el palacio presidencial a las 11.00 hora local (1530 GMT) para informar sobre las nuevas directrices en materia de política económica.

El presidente Hugo Chávez ha estado prometiendo por semanas las medidas y ha asegurado que éstas reactivarán el crecimiento de la economía, luego de que en el segundo trimestre se registrara la primera contracción del Producto Interno Bruto en un lustro.

El mandatario socialista, que durante meses aseguró que la crisis financiera local no había tocado ni un pelo a Venezuela, dijo recientemente que se conformaría con cualquier tasa de crecimiento para el 2009,

pero algunos funcionarios han admitido que es posible una contracción.

El Gobierno ha estimado que el PIB se expandirá un 0,5 por ciento en el 2010 y que la inflación rondará 20-22 por ciento. Las medidas, han dicho funcionarios, buscan además reducir la brecha entre el precio del dólar paralelo que ronda los 5,5 bolívares y el que rige en el férreo control de cambio de 2,15 bolívares por dólar.

Aunque ha sido descartada una devaluación o el levantamiento del control de cambio, analistas esperan que dentro de los anuncios se incluyan mecanismos que aumenten la disponibilidad de dólares a la tasa oficial y mayores niveles de gasto público. También se anticipan nuevas emisiones de bonos, como la de casi 5.000 millones de dólares vendida esta semana.

Fuentes del Gobierno han dicho que la próxima emisión de bonos sería de la estatal petrolera PDVSA, que enfrenta problemas de flujo de caja y crecientes deudas con proveedores. □



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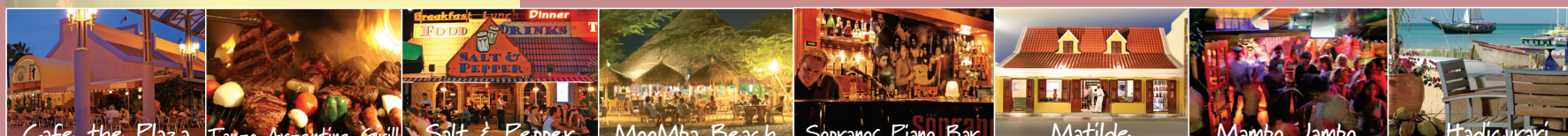
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